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THE JERUSALEM POST

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

No. 1,103. PUBLISHED WEEKLY • DECEMBER 20-26, 1981 • KISLEV 24-30, 5742 • SAFAR 24-30, 1402

THE LATEST NEWS FROM ISRAEL

Published in Jerusalem
יצא לאור בישראל

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Jerusalem Post Staff

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You have no right to 'punish' Israel — and I protest at the very use of this term.

You have announced that you are suspending consultations on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation, and that your return to these consultations in the future will depend on progress achieved in the autonomy talks and on the situation in Lebanon.

You want to make Israel a hostage of the memorandum of understanding.

I regard your announcement suspending the consultations on the memorandum as the abrogation (by you) of the memorandum. No

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NEWS ANALYSIS Wolf Blitzer

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Australia	\$1.20	Italy	L.1.400
Canada	\$1.48	South Africa	Rd1.20
Denmark	DKR.00	Sweden	SKR.50
Germany	DM2.80	Switzerland	SFR.30
Holland	DFR.00	United Kingdom	£0p
Israel	IL11.00	United States	\$1.25

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U.S. shows its anger at Golan legislation

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

In its clearest public demonstration of annoyance with the Golan legislation, the U.S. on Friday announced the suspension of the memorandum on strategic cooperation which it signed with Israel less than three weeks ago.

In addition, the Reagan administration has taken other punitive steps against Israel designed to underscore Washington's opposition to the Golan action.

U.S. officials said President Ronald Reagan personally had authorized the U.S. vote in favour of a strongly worded UN Security Council resolution Thursday night calling on Israel to rescind the action.

In an interview Friday on NBC TV's *Today* show, the President went beyond his earlier news conference statement deploring the Israeli decision by flatly calling it a violation of UN resolutions 242 and 338.

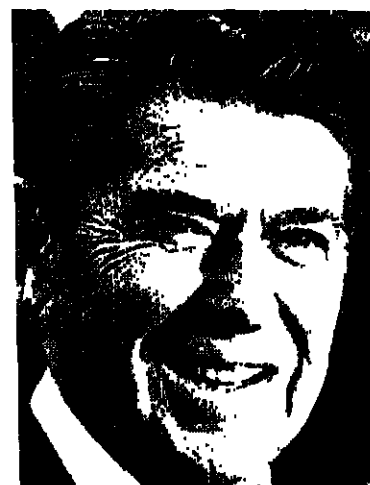
Reagan said the Israeli move makes the peace process "more difficult, because the peace process must continue under the Camp David accords and UN resolutions 242 and 338, and this does violate those resolutions."

State Department officials said the administration for the time being has decided against suspending economic and military assistance already in the pipeline to Israel. But last Monday's speedy Knesset passage of the Golan Law is still going "to cost" Israel, they said, referring to Friday's announcement to suspend pending discussions with Israel on various ways to promote Israel's economy and defence-related industries.

Israel also was put on notice that its overall behaviour in the region will determine whether additional U.S. punitive steps will be taken. Specifically, the Americans are very concerned about a possible military flare-up along the Lebanese or Syrian borders.

Thus, U.S. officials said that while Israel's reversal of the Golan decision was not necessarily a requirement for lifting the suspension of the strategic cooperation pact, the U.S. will carefully monitor the overall situation in the Middle East, specifically events in Lebanon and the Palestinian autonomy negotiations, before reversing its decision.

State Department spokesman



President Reagan

Dean Fischer said on Friday, "The president has instructed Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger and Secretary of State Alexander Haig not to proceed at this time with discussions intended to implement the memorandum of understanding signed on November 30 of this year. This means we will not hold next month's scheduled meeting of the coordinating council as set up in the M.O.U."

"In addition, the president has decided that the United States will not for the moment proceed with further discussions on some Israeli proposals for promoting Department of Defence purchases of defence-related goods and services in Israel, on authorizing Israel to use some Foreign Military Sales funds to purchase Israeli-produced goods and services, or on the possible use of FMS funds by third countries to purchase Israeli defence items and services."

These last three steps, if sustained for a lengthy period, could cost Israel several hundred million dollars.

Earlier, the U.S. had agreed that the U.S. defence establishment would purchase up to \$200 million worth of Israeli military products and services as a means of helping Israel's ailing economy. The Pentagon was still waiting for an Israeli list of possible products and services when the suspension was announced on Friday.

Mitterrand visit postponed

French President Francois Mitterrand, due to visit Israel in February, has postponed his visit as a protest against the enactment of the Golan Law.

ISRAEL HITS BACK

(Continued from page one)

You have imposed upon us financial punishments — and have (thereby) violated the word of the President. When Secretary Haig was here he read from a written document the words of President Reagan that you would purchase 200 million dollars worth of Israeli arms and other equipment.

This is therefore a violation of the President's word. Is it customary? Is it proper?

You cancelled an additional 100 million dollars. What did you want to do — to 'hit us in our pocket'? In 1946 there lived in this house a British general by the name of Barker. Today I live here. When we fought him you called us 'terrorists' — and we carried on fighting. After we attacked his headquarters in the requisitioned building of the King David Hotel, Barker said: 'This race will only be influenced by being hit in the pocket' — and he ordered his soldiers to stop patronizing Jewish cafes.

To hit us in the pocket — this is the philosophy of Barker. Now I understand why the whole great effort in the Senate to obtain a majority for the arms deal with Saudi Arabia was accompanied by an ugly campaign of anti-Semitism.

First the slogan was sounded 'Begin or Reagan?' — and that was nice because it meant that whoever opposes the deal is supporting a foreign prime minister and is not loyal to the President of the United States. And thus Senators like Jackson, Kennedy, Packwood, and of course Borchowitz are not loyal citizens.

Then the slogan was sounded, 'We should not let the Jews determine the foreign policy of the United States.' What was the meaning of this slogan? The Greek minority in the U.S. determined the Senate decision to withhold weapons from Turkey after it invaded Cyprus. No one will frighten the great and free Jewish community of the U.S., no one will succeed in cowering them with anti-Semitic propaganda. They will stand by our side. This is the land of their forefathers — and they have a right and a duty to support it.

Some say we must 'rescind' the law passed by the Knesset. To rescind is a concept from the days of the Inquisition. Our forefathers went to the stake rather than 'rescind' their faith.

We do not need to go to the stake; we, thank God, have strength enough to defend our sovereignty and to defend our rights.

If it were up to me (alone) I would say we should not rescind the law. But as far as I can judge there is in fact no one on earth who can persuade the Knesset to rescind the law which it passed by a two-thirds majority.

Mr. Weinberger — and later Mr. Haig — said that the law adversely affects U.N. Resolution 242. Whoever says that has either not read the Resolution, or has forgotten it or has not understood it.

The essence of the Resolution is negotiation to determine agreed and recognized borders. Syria has announced that it will not conduct negotiations with us, that it does not and will not recognize us — and thus removed from Resolution 242

its essence. How, therefore, could we adversely affect 242?

As regards the future, please be kind enough to inform the Secretary of State that the Golan Heights Law will remain valid. There is no force on earth that can bring about its rescission.

As for the contention that we surprised you, the truth is that we did not want to embarrass you. We knew your difficulties. It was indeed President Reagan who said that Mr. Begin was right — that had Israel told the US about the law (in advance) the US would have said no. We did not want you to say no — and then go ahead and apply Israeli law to the Golan Heights.

As regards Lebanon, I have asked that the Secretary of State be informed that we will not initiate a war, but if we are attacked by the terrorists or the Syrians we will launch a counter-attack.

(During the cabinet meeting, a Hanukkah greeting message arrived from President and Mrs. Reagan, addressed to Begin:

"Nancy and I wish you and Mrs. Begin a Hanukkah full of joy and happiness. The light of the Hanukkah candles symbolizes the continuity of the Jewish People and its culture, its decision to be free and its constant quest for peace. The US will always ensure the efforts to bring the blessing of peace to all the nations of the Middle East. We wish you a full recovery from your injury.")

The statement above is a translation of the Hebrew text read by Mr. Begin to the cabinet.

U.S. Jews attack pact action

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

NEW YORK. — The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations on Saturday voiced its "profound dismay and disappointment" at the U.S. suspension of its strategic agreement with Israel and criticized America's Security Council vote last week, arguing that "Syria should not be rewarded by the United Nations or the United States for its behaviour."

Conference chairman Howard Squadron told a press conference "There is no reason to criticize, to condemn or to punish Israel for reacting without violence to Syria's unremitting intransigence, hostility and threats."

Referring to last week's Security Council vote, Squadron said he "cannot understand why the U.S. finds itself obliged to join the anti-Israeli lynch mob in the UN."

The presidents' conference refrained both in a letter it sent to President Ronald Reagan Saturday and in Squadron's statement, to express support for Israel's decision to extend its law to the Golan Heights, reflecting what many here regard as a lack of enthusiasm in the American-Jewish establishment both for the Israeli move itself and for its timing.

THE WEATHER

	Saturday's	Sunday's
Jerusalem	Min-Max 6-18	18
Nahariya	11-22	23
Safed	10-13	13
Haifa	15-21	23
Tiberias	13-22	22
Tel Aviv	13-20	22
Jericho	13-24	25

Treasury downplays American decision

The American suspension of programmes intended to boost Israel's defence-related industries will not immediately harm Israel's economy, Prof. Ezra Sadan, director-general of the Treasury, said at the weekend.

Sadan stressed that the ban applied only to proposals that had not yet been implemented. He was referring in particular to the clause in the strategic cooperation agreement according to which third countries would spend in Israel the military aid funds they receive from the U.S. Sadan said that no equipment has yet been purchased under this arrangement, and he foresaw no short-term industrial damage, such as unemployment, as a result of the ban.

Defence Minister Ariel Sharon at a meeting with defence correspondents, also sought to downplay the economic damage the sanctions will cause. But other senior defence officials later said they were worried by the suspension.

In interviews to the media at the weekend, Defence Minister Sharon said that the suspension "strikes at the heart" of Israel's security.

At a meeting last Thursday with defence correspondents, before the suspension was announced, he said he expected some such punitive measure. He also said that any such measure would only be temporary and that the deep strategic ties between Israel and the U.S. were too secure to be broken by a temporary aberration in the relations between the two countries.

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THE GOLAN ISSUE

Sharon says alert in north for defensive purposes only

By HIRSH GOODMAN
Post Defence Correspondent

Israel's military deployment in the north is intended for one purpose only, says Defence Minister Ariel Sharon: to ensure that peace is maintained in the area, and war prevented. Israel, he told military correspondents in Tel Aviv, has absolutely no hostile intentions, but must take every precaution to ensure that Syria does not incorrectly assess the situation.

Chief of Staff Rav-Aluf Rafael Eitan last week abruptly cut short his visit to Egypt by 48 hours and returned to Israel to oversee the military situation in the north. But despite Syrian rhetoric in response to the Knesset action instituting Israeli law on the Golan Heights, the northern borders are reported quiet and stable.

There have been no reports of Syrian military redeployment on the Golan Heights or inside Syria, and analysts predict that the outbreak of conflict is "very low indeed." There is a slightly higher chance, but still low, that the terrorists will use this opportunity to destabilize the situation on the Lebanese frontier.

Eitan was in Egypt as an official guest of the Egyptian armed forces when he was hastily recalled to Israel, together with O.C. Air Force David Ivri.

Despite the apparent quiet, the IDF has redeployed to meet any eventuality. A state of preparedness

has been declared and travellers to the north reported increased armoured movement on the roads.

Simultaneously, other deterrent steps have been taken, including strong statements from various government officials that Israel will not tolerate a protracted war of attrition, telling the Syrians that if they want conflict the consequences are going to be serious. Israel will not tolerate a repeat of last May's Lebanese missile crisis, and could use this conflict to resolve that problem as well, it was hinted.

Defence Minister Ariel Sharon visited the Heights last week, discussing regional defence with settlers.

The reason for the low probability of conflict predicted by the analysts is primarily Syria's weak position in the Arab world. The war between Iraq and Iran has isolated Syria and Libya from the rest of the confrontation states. President Hafez Assad's internal political problems, as illustrated by the recent spate of bombings in the country, does not add to his ability to conduct war, even though an external conflict as a means of uniting his country could prove beneficial to him in the short run.

If a full-scale war were to break out now, however, Assad would be threatened on more than one front. The situation in Lebanon, where he has 30,000 troops bogged down, could deteriorate with the Chris-

tians taking advantage of the situation to secure gains for themselves; the same could apply to his Moslem fundamentalist internal enemies whose main goal is to overthrow Assad, and not to defeat Israel.

Assad will also have to look over his shoulder at Iraq, since President Saddam Hussein's hatred for Assad has only increased Syria's support for Iran, with which Iraq is at war. Syria's neighbour, Jordan, is one of Iraq's closest allies.

As part of a deterrent move Israel has visibly been moving armour. An important development has been the Egyptian attitude of declared non-intervention, which basically means that the entire capability of the IDF could be directed against the Syrians should war break out.

On Saturday, shops in Druse villages on the Golan interrupted the commercial strike, called to protest the introduction of Israeli law, to enable residents to buy food. The strike, in its fourth day on Saturday, was organized by pro-Syrian groups.

On Sunday, the strike was called off after a vote by Druse inhabitants.

At a large rally on Thursday, the leader of the pro-Israeli "Druse Zionist Circle," Salman Abu Saleh, was denounced as a "traitor" and "agent of the Zionist entity." He and his family have been placed under police protection (see also p.8)



Some of the thousands who responded to the leftist Mapam's call to protest against the Golan Law.

(IPPA-Meir)

Mass protest in Tel Aviv

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Some 10,000 people demonstrated here Saturday evening against the Golan Law and called for "Zionism without annexation." The protest was organized by the leftist Mapam and its Kibbutz Arzi movement.

Many of the demonstrators at Kikar Machei Yisrael carried posters reading "Fascism will not pass." "No to annexation." "Beware: dictatorship is on the way." and "Arik, we're not in South America."

Mapam secretary Victor Shemtov opened the demonstration, saying it expressed the cry of thousands of Israelis against the "dangerous" situation created by the Golan Law. "The prime minister's theatrical acts create an atmosphere of intox-

ication and self-admiration, of contempt for international bodies," he said.

He warned that the new law would threaten the chances of holding peace negotiations with Jordan, Syria and the Palestinian people.

A representative of Kibbutz Geshur there feel no safer now that the law has been passed, and that Golan residents would be able to sleep in peace only when a peace treaty is signed with Syria.

MK Mohammed Wadat said that despite Prime Minister Menachem Begin's "provocation" the Arab public believes in peace and in Israel's right to exist. "Arik Sharon and Menachem Begin speak in the same radical way as Syrian leader Assad does," he said.

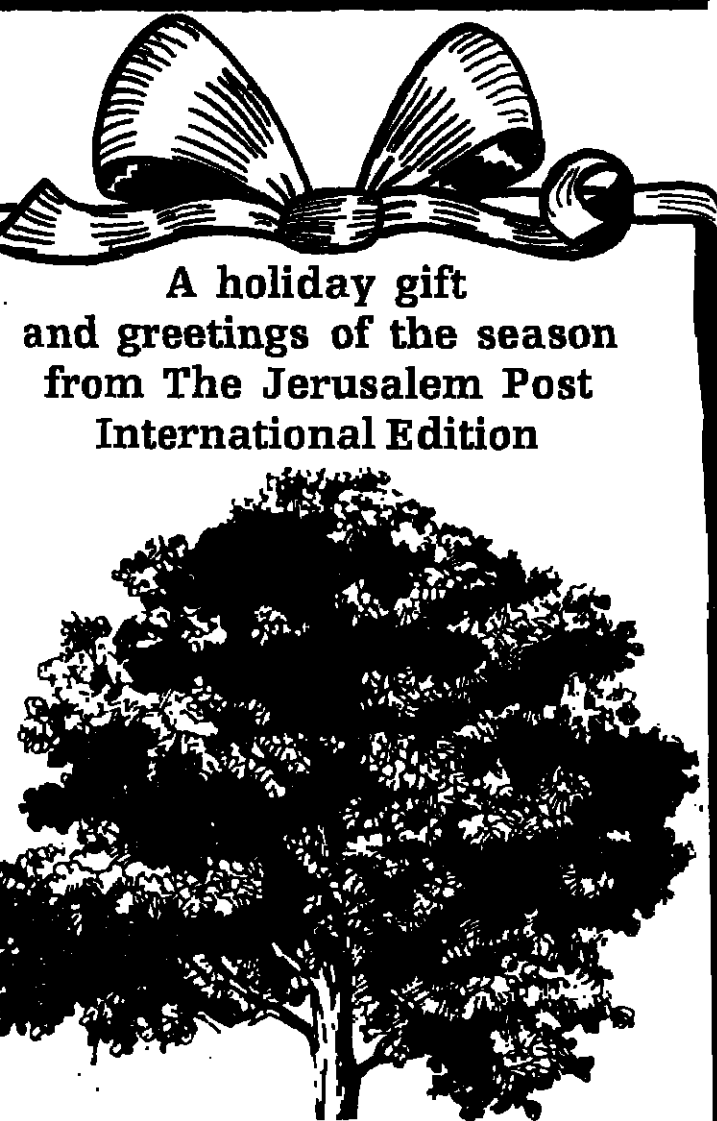
Aguda scolded

TEL AVIV. — Prime Minister Menachem Begin is expected to take the four-man Agudat Yisrael faction, a coalition partner, to task for its abstention from the Golan vote last week.

Begin does not intend to overlook what he considers a "gross violation by Aguda of the basic policy lines of the government" which the party approved upon joining the coalition last summer, according to sources in the Prime Minister's Office.

Begin let the Aguda MKs have a foretaste of his wrath in the dining room at the Knesset last Monday evening, when he publicly rebuked them. But sources in his office say there will be more reckoning to come.

The Aguda MKs argue that they might have sided with the government had they known of the plan earlier.



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Postal publication identification number USPS 436-010

North American office, 120 East 58th Street, New York N.Y. 10022, Telephone (212) 355-4440. Director: Francine Friedman

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THE JERUSALEM POST was founded in 1932 by GERSHON AGRON, who was Editor until 1955. Editor 1956-1974, TED LURIE. Editor 1974-1975, LEA BEN DOR.

The International Edition, is published weekly on Tuesdays in Jerusalem, Israel by Jerusalem Post Publications Ltd and contains material from the six previous daily editions

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Yamit pay-out impasse

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV. — Compensation talks between the government and Yamit residents were deadlocked again Thursday after the settlers' action committee refused to meet with Deputy Prime Minister Simcha Ehrlich.

Yamit is the Northern Sinai coastal town, established a few years ago by Israeli settlers. Under terms of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, Yamit must be handed over to the Egyptians by next April. In recent months, the settlers — especially local businessmen — have been engaged in a dispute with the Israeli government over the amount of compensation they will be given for evacuating their establishments.

The Yamit action committee failed to show up for Thursday's meeting with Ehrlich in Tel Aviv, citing the lack of an "official invitation" as the reason for not renewing the compensation talks. "If anyone can knock some sense into the settlers' heads, they should explain to them they are wasting precious time," a source close to Ehrlich said. "They will also be surprised to find out how generous he (Ehrlich) plans to be with regard to

their demands." Ehrlich heads a three-minister committee charged by the government with reaching a compensation settlement with the residents.

There do not seem to be any new negotiations in the offing and settlers are saying that they have nothing more to discuss with the government.

Defence Minister Ariel Sharon had gone to Yamit on Monday, to inform the settlers that the cabinet, the day before, had rejected their demands for increased compensation.

He implored the Yamit action committee to meet with Ehrlich and the two other members of the ministerial negotiation committee, Finance Minister Yoram Aridor and Housing Minister David Levy.

Aridor noted in the cabinet that IS4 billion have already been paid out or promised to Yamit settlers. That is four times the sum allocated for slum clearance and four times the budget of the Foreign Ministry.

On Friday, a Beersheba magistrate issued a remand order against eight Yamit settlers suspected of setting fire on December 2 to government offices.

Arabs welcome U.S. support at the UN

Jerusalem Post Staff
UNITED NATIONS. — Arab diplomats last week welcomed America's vote in the Security Council on Thursday condemning Israel for the Golan Law, and the U.S. suspension on Friday of the strategic cooperation accord.

Referring to the suspension of the accord, Ambassador Clovis Maksoud, UN observer for the Arab League said: "We welcome this as a signal from the U.S. to Israel, but we do not think it is adequate enough to generate pressure to deter Israel from its expansionism."

However, the true test of "U.S. determination to translate its displeasure" into concrete action, Maksoud said, would be if Washington supported Security Council sanctions in the event that Israel fails, as expected, to rescind the extension of Israeli law to the Golan Heights.

On Thursday night, the U.S. joined the other 14 members of the Security Council in a unanimous vote in favour of a Syrian-sponsored resolution which declared the Israeli move "null and void" and demanded that Israel rescind it "forthwith."

The council will reconvene on January 5 to consider sanctions against Israel if the law is not annulled.

Syria last week also called for an emergency meeting of Arab League foreign and defence ministers to consider measures against Israel's legislation on the Golan.

A terse statement released in Damascus called on the Arab League to summon the ministers to its Tunis headquarters to discuss Israel's "grave aggression" against Syria. No date for the meeting was announced.

Supermarket bomb found in time

Police on Friday exploded a bomb found outside the supermarket in the new Gilo suburb of Jerusalem. There were no injuries and no damage was caused.

At 8 a.m. a Gilo resident saw a suspect parcel lying outside the supermarket and notified the police. Police sappers sealed off the area and used a remote-control bomb handler to explode the bomb.

Christian Embassy head leaves for Europe visit

Johann Luckoff, director of the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem, left last week for Europe, including Holland and Germany, to set up additional consulates there.

The ICE already has 16 consulates in Europe.

Greek gesture to PLO

ATHENS (Reuters). — Greece has decided to grant diplomatic status to the Palestine Liberation Organization office in Athens, PLO leader Yasser Arafat told reporters last week at the close of a three-day visit.

The PLO leader visited Greece at the invitation of Greece's new Socialist government which came to power in a landslide victory in October.

Controversial appointee won't take defence job

By HIRSH GOODMAN
Post Defence Correspondent
Arie Genger, Defence Minister Ariel Sharon's controversial nominee for the job of arms export coordinator, told a press conference on Friday that he would not take up the post after all.

Genger said this was due to the objections of veteran employees at the ministry to his appointment, sparked by his having spent the past 15 years outside Israel.

His resentment stems from the fact that Genger, who emigrated from Israel in 1966 and became a successful business executive in the U.S., refuses to give up his American citizenship. This, the Defence Ministry works committee says, casts doubt on whether Genger should be privy to classified military data sure to cross his desk in his job as Israel's arms export coordinator.

A spokesman for the Defence Ministry labour committee, expressed satisfaction and said that he hoped Genger would find other suitable employment in Israel, if he

still desired to return to the country, as he had claimed.

Genger was to assume charge of Israel's military exports on December 15, later postponed to January 1. On Friday, less than 24 hours after arriving in Israel, he announced that he would not take the job.

In an official statement over the weekend, Sharon said that he is still convinced that Genger is the best man for the job. He added that he regretted the injustice done to Genger and hoped he would reconsider.

Sharon still has problems with the staff at the ministry over his intention to institute basic reforms in the Defence Ministry. The workers are insisting that they would still fight what they termed the minister's heavy-handed attitude towards them, and from this week on will step up sanctions. Last Thursday they initiated a one-hour-a-day work stoppage, and now intend to increase this.

Sharon intends to institute a three-phase plan, beginning this week, when the IDF Quartermaster Corps and the Defence Ministry's procurement agency will be integrated. Defence Ministry and IDF delegations in Paris and New York unified, and the country's various military research and development agencies combined.

In all, Sharon said, he intends to eliminate some 12,000 ministry jobs.



Arie Genger

Permits for rebuilding of demolished homes

By DAVID RICHARDSON
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The four Beit Sahur and Bethlehem families whose houses were demolished exactly a month ago after attacks on Israeli military personnel are to be allowed to rebuild their homes on the same plots, a military government source confirmed last week.

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, who had intervened on behalf of the families, was officially informed on Thursday that the seizure orders applied to the four plots were to be cancelled and that the families could submit plans for new houses.

A senior military government source said that permission had been granted after consultation with Defence Minister Ariel Sharon.

Freij stressed that the anger and resentment local people felt was likely to harm the coming Christmas celebrations.

Beit Sahur Mayor Hanna al-Atrash, whose town council had considered abstaining from all Christmas celebrations this year, said last week that there was no

doubt now that everyone would participate in the traditional processions and festivities.

Freij, who informed al-Atrash and the families Thursday afternoon of the military government's decision, said that they would begin to clear the rubble from the sites the next day.

According to both mayors, a fund has been established for the reconstruction, expected to cost \$60,000 for each house.

Money has been collected from local Arabs and charitable societies. A l-Atrash said last week that in view of the number of inquiries from Israelis interested in contributing, his municipality would probably open a bank account to receive contributions.

The mayor said that the four families, whose sons confessed to throwing petrol bombs at passing traffic, are also likely to submit requests for compensation from the military authorities.

Two Christian and two Muslim families totalling 55 people were destroyed when the houses were demolished.

Sharon to re-examine Bir Zeit closure

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Defence Minister Ariel Sharon promised on Friday to consider allowing the Arab West Bank Bir Zeit university — ordered closed last month — to reopen before the term of the military government's closure order expires on January 4.

Sharon told enquiring Members of Knesset that the government favoured expanding the institutions of higher learning in the West Bank and Gaza "as in any other place in Eretz Yisrael."

The MKs approached Sharon

after they had met with Bir Zeit's acting President, Doctor Gabi Baramki.

The military government is demanding that the university guarantee that the students refrain from causing disturbances both inside and outside the campus. They say that disturbances outside the campus have sometimes closed the road running through the town. The university authorities are willing to ensure order on campus, but argue that they have no jurisdiction or control outside campus grounds.

HOME NEWS

Bethlehem gets ready for Christmas celebrations

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH
Jerusalem Post Reporter

BETHLEHEM. — Local troubles and the country's brooding political situation have combined to darken the Christmas atmosphere this year in the city of Jesus' birth.

Bethlehem's four small hotels are as usual fully booked. But the military tension in the North and the political situation will apparently leave plenty of hotel rooms empty in Jerusalem, which is the usual base for Christmas pilgrims to the Holy Land.

Bethlehem's Christian character has been steadily slipping over the years. Emigration of Christians, mostly to South and North America, has decreased their percentage among the town's 30,000 residents from 60 per cent in 1975, when a census was taken, to about 50 per cent today.

Many of the new settlers are Beduin of the Ta'amra tribe which has long roamed the Judean Desert to the east. Bethlehem also contains 14,000 Palestinian refugees. All are Moslem, and except for a small number who own shops downtown, they are barred from voting in municipal elections because they are not taxpayers.

Unlike the sternly fundamentalist Islamic town of Hebron, 30 kilometres to the south, which has no bars or cinemas, Bethlehem has 50 bars and three cinemas. Some Hebronites come up to Bethlehem to frequent an elite Bethlehem social club where they can enjoy mixed swimming and mixed drinks.

This liberalism is matched by a political moderation epitomized by Freij, a short, unprepossessing businessman who has won wide respect as a sagacious, non-dogmatic leader.



Ofira Navon, left, wife of the president, discusses the meaning of Hanukkah with Sallie Lewis, wife of the U.S. ambassador, at the Lewis home in Herzliya Pituah. Mrs. Navon called on wives of foreign diplomats to join activities connected with Israel Children's Week.

(Yis'acov Sa'ar, Government Press Office)

Soviet Jew honoured as Israel marks Hanukkah

The first candle of Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights, was lit Sunday at sundown. Hanukkah commemorates the triumph of the Maccabees over the Syrian-Greeks more than 2,000 years ago.

A special ceremony was held Sunday afternoon at the Western Wall in Jerusalem to honour the struggle of Yitzhak Shkolnik to emigrate to Israel from the Soviet Union. A giant *hanukkah* (candelabrum) is being lit at the

Western Wall every night of the holiday. Shkolnik was represented by his daughter, Louise and his wife Feige, whom he has not seen for eight years.

What is described as "the first solar-powered *hanukkah*" was kindled on the beach near the Dead Sea Works by activists from Telem, the Movement for Zionist Fulfillment. Engineers have built the device, which will be lit on the seventh night of Hanukkah.

TA Maccabi whp Dutch

TEL AVIV. — Maccabi Tel Aviv last week won its second game by defeating a competent and speedy Den Bosch of Holland by 100 to 87 at Yad Eliahu stadium here.

Israelis becoming 'people of the box'

Jerusalem Post Staff
The "people of the book" may be a disappearing species, according to a survey of the country's reading habits conducted two months ago by the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem.

Almost none of the population spends more time reading than watching television and listening to the radio, the survey found, and about 60 per cent of all Israelis either read no books at all (35 per cent), or very little (24 per cent).

The average Israeli spends over two hours a day in front of a TV or radio, while only 8.1 per cent of the population devotes that much time to books.

Only among the higher-educated sector of the population does the time spent reading — 114 minutes a day — approach the TV and radio time — 118 minutes. And of this reading, nearly half is newspapers. Israelis with only elementary education, in contrast, spend 153 minutes a day with the TV and radio, compared to only 58 minutes reading, of which 35 minutes are devoted to newspapers.

There is no significant difference between different income-level groups, but Israelis of European-American origin read considerably more than those of Asian-African origin. Among the second generation, however, the two groups tend to average out somewhere in the middle.

The survey also asked respondents how much they read traditional Jewish books. The Bible is never read by 63 per cent, and 51.0 per cent have never read it in the Talmud.

There are 206 books in the average Israeli home, but the survey's authors expressed concern that more books are being bought only for display, while fewer are actually being read.

Rugby star killed in road accident

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Gary Myers, 19, one of Israel's top rugby players, was killed in a road accident last week while doing his national service.

Myers, who immigrated with his family from Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) four years ago, was the national team fly half. In Israel's international debut, a 9-9 draw against Switzerland last summer, he scored the only try and was a mainstay of Israel's inaugural overseas rugby tour to France and Switzerland.

Myers' younger brother Russell just reached Israel in time for the funeral, after returning home from competition in the U.S. with the national junior tennis team.

Myers' father Bernie, a former Rhodesian rugby international, has served here as a national coach and selector to the Israel Rugby Football Union.

Galilee marathon

TEL AVIV. — Six men and two women from overseas with top-class times for the event will be among the 400 starters for this week's fifth annual Sea of Galilee international marathon. The total number of foreign entries has, however, dropped to only 50 from a high of nearly 200 in last January's race. The expected local entry of 350 represents a fractional increase over the last run.

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Latest index price rise means 18p.c. boost in wages

Post Economic Reporter
Last month's 5.8 per cent rise in the consumer-price index, which was announced last week, means that wage-earners will receive a 17.8 per cent cost-of-living increment with their January salaries.

The price rise in September-November over the preceding three months, which is the basis for the cost-of-living allowance payable from January, was 22.2 per cent. Wage-earners will therefore get 80 per cent of that figure as a cost-of-living increment (payable in February).

The income-tax brackets will be adjusted from January by 22.2 per cent — the full rate of inflation for the three-month period ending in November.

The latest C-4-L rise brings the cumulative rate of inflation since November 1980 to 103.1 per cent.

Among the components of the consumer basket, food prices rose at the lowest rate — 4.2 per cent, reflecting subsidies by the Treasury.

The highest rise recorded in November was for apparel and footwear, 10.3 per cent. Other consumer goods and services rose about 1 per cent above or below the overall price index.

The impact of the government's subsidy policy is more clearly revealed by the rise in food prices since November 1980 — 66.5 per cent, as compared with 103.1 per cent for the overall index, and 146.9 per cent for apparel and footwear.

Similarly, the price index for transportation and communications services, which is also highly affected by subsidies, rose by 78.8 per cent — but the cost of housing, much of which is also government-determined, rose by 136.4 per cent.

Histadrut secretary-general MK Yeroham Meshel said that the rise in the index was disturbing enough, but that the labour federation was much more worried about the steep rise in the November unemployment figures, which jumped by 14 per cent in comparison with October. (Editorial comment, page 24.)

Seligserg school to stay for now

Jerusalem Post Reporter
The pupil boycott of the Hadassah Seligserg Brandeis High School in Jerusalem has ended, following an agreement last week between the Education Ministry and the Treasury on the school's future.

Education Ministry Director-General Eliezer Shmueli and Treasury Director-General Ezra Sadan signed a "memorandum of agreement" in which the state promised to provide a "suitable structure" to accommodate the Seligserg pupils starting in 1986.

The text of this agreement was cabled to the Hadassah organization executive in New York, which last night responded that it has now "withdrawn its opposition" to opening registration for Seligserg for next year.

Hadassah three months ago announced that it was withdrawing its

financial support from the school and would phase it out over the next four years.

The Jerusalem Municipality and the Education Ministry will jointly handle the registration of ninth graders for next year. But it is still unclear who will provide most of the school's funds for the four or five years after that.

First Arab-Jewish class

Jerusalem Post Reporter
The country's first Jewish-Arab integrated class has just been opened in Nazareth, an Education Ministry spokesman announced.

The class is made up of about 50 volunteer Arab and Jewish eighth and ninth graders, selected from several schools in the Jewish Upper Nazareth and Arab Nazareth. The pupils all want to specialize in mathematics and science.



Decorations over the Jerusalem-Bethlehem road installed by the Jerusalem Municipality wish Christian pilgrims a happy new year. (Yossi Zamir, Scoop 80)

Jail warden slain in ambush

By JEFFREY HELLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The warden of the Ramle detention centre, 32-year-old Ronnie Nitzan, was shot to death in his car near his home, in Rishon LeZion last week. Police have detained 10 suspects, some of whom were expected to be released after interrogation.

Calling the murder an unprecedented attack on an Israeli law-enforcement officer, police indicated that a full-scale investigation is under way and that other suspects may be arrested.

A witness to the shooting — on Sunday morning of last week — said a man got out of a blue van, slowly walked toward Nitzan, and shot him with an automatic weapon. Nitzan died instantly.

The witness said he saw two men in the van wearing blue clothes and the other in an army uniform. The van's licence plates were covered by rags, the witness said. "One of the men got out. His head was covered by something white. He went up to Nitzan's car, almost nonchalantly, and shot him," the witness said.

Police reportedly counted 16 spent shells near the bullet-riddled car. The murder took place across



Ronnie Nitzan (Israel Sun)

the street from a school. Nitzan is survived by his wife and five-year-old daughter.

Prison authority head Mordechai Wertheimer said Nitzan's life had been threatened in the past, but there had been no intelligence information of late that the warden was in danger.

"There was an attempt to kill him a year and a half ago. It was investigated and there were suspects arrested, but they were released for lack of evidence," Wertheimer said.

A handgrenade at that time had been placed in front of the door to Nitzan's home in Rishon LeZion, but had not exploded.

Barren fig

TORA AND FLORA
L.I. Rabinowitz

Portion of the Week: Miketz, Gen. 41 — 44. 17. Haftarah (Hanukkah) Zechariah 2.14 — 4.7. The verse discussed is Zechariah 3.10.

There are innumerable fig trees in Jerusalem and its vicinity. I keep as a close, and perhaps selfish, secret the few which, despite the complete lack of care which is their fate, produce a harvest of figs, some in the most unlikely places.

I have gathered the largest and most luscious figs, with the permission of the owner, from the grounds of an iron foundry! And last year, not only did I provide myself with sufficient figs for the long season, but for the second year in succession I tried my hand at drying and preserving them, and with great success.

I say "the long season" because the Talmud states that the Tora is compared to the fig because, unlike other fruit trees, it does not produce its fruit for a limited, but over an extended, period. So should one return again and again to the study of the Tora.

That barrenness of the fig tree was by no means characteristic of the fig in Biblical and Talmudic times. On the contrary; in the Haftarah of this Sabbath the prophet foretells the time when each "will sit under his fig tree and under his vine," and the reference is not to their shade — but to the continued enjoyment of its fruit.

To such an extent was the fertility of the fig characteristic of the Talmudic period that the Talmud (Tamid 29a) actually asks, as a rhetorical question, "Are there then fig trees which produce no fruit?", and answers that it is possible, but only under special circumstances. "Rahabiah said, They bring a white fig tree, scrape it with a rope of date bark, on which seed is smeared to prevent its blossoming. It is then planted in alluvial soil, and the tree produces planks but no fruit."

It needed this detailed and drastic treatment to make it barren. Today is not only Hanukkah for us, it is also Christmas for the Christians, and in the New Testament the barrenness of the fig tree is mentioned as a positive miracle! "And when he saw a fig tree on the way and found nothing thereon but leaves, he said unto it, 'Let no fruit grow on thee henceforth and forever. And presently the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it they marvelled.' (Matthew 21.19; Mark 11.13)

Truly, how is the fig tree fallen!

Berthold Nathan, 98

Berthold Nathan, a familiar Jerusalem figure for 46 years, died last week at the age of 98. Short and round, with a bright ruddy complexion, he was always ready with the latest joke the yekkes were telling.

Nathan arrived in Jerusalem from Germany in 1935 and, though his field was furniture, he turned his hand to advertising and became the representative of most of the newly arrived immigrants then opening shops.

Nathan is survived by his two sons, Ernst and Paul, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He willed his body to science.

Archeologists fear 'bones bill'

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Israel's archeological community decided last week to climb out of the excavation pits and wage political battle to head off a proposed archeological bill that "would return us to the Middle Ages."

Some 100 archeologists from around the country decided at a meeting in the Israel Museum to establish a committee that would lobby Knesset members against a bill being prepared by Agudat Yisrael that would halt any excavations where bones are discovered.

Last September, violent clashes occurred at an archeological dig at the City of David, a slope extending from Jerusalem's Old City walls to the village of Silwan. Orthodox Jews — including Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren — insisted that the dig be halted because there were Jewish graves on the site. The archeologists refused.)

Prof. Yigael Yadin, former deputy prime minister, was among those named to the committee at

the meeting which was called by the Archeological Circle, a professional group that normally deals only with scientific matters.

"This regressive law would bring an end to the golden age of archeology in Israel," said Yadin. "It would return us to the Middle Ages."

Amos Kloner, Jerusalem district archeologist for the Antiquities Department, said the bill would be "a death blow" to archeology in the country. "There's almost no dig where you don't hit bones," he said.

Under a clause originally drawn up by Agudat Yisrael as part of the coalition agreement, representatives of the Chief Rabbinate would be summoned to any excavations in which bones are found and it would be for them to determine how or whether to proceed. A later version being prepared as a bill soon to be submitted to the Knesset reportedly includes a provision to invite representatives of other religious groups if the bones are not those of Jews.

Previous practice, according to one speaker, was for archeologists

to notify burial societies of uncovered bones and these would be buried in a common grave after the excavation was completed.

Dr. Yigal Shilo, who led the City of David dig which last summer was the target of repeated attacks by ultra-Orthodox haredim, said that it was impossible to come to an agreement with the Orthodox on this matter.

Yosef Aviram, director of the Israel Exploration Society, said the archeologists should consider resigning from the Antiquities Department if the law were passed, or should declare their determination to disobey the law even at the risk of arrest.

Archeologist Ya'acov Meshorer said the bill would mean yeshiva students supervising every archeological dig in the country.

After Wallfisch adds:

The coalition executive has been dragging its feet on the Aguda measure because the Likud hopes first to get Aguda agreement to the so-called "Norwegian Law" enabling ministers to resign their Knesset seats in favour of the next man on their party lists.

Centenary of Yemen aliya

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The notion that the greatest contribution of Yemenite Jewry was made to Israel after the founding of the state is mistaken, the pioneers who came 100 years ago may have lacked a vision of state-building, but they helped to realize the vision, said Dr. Nitzah Druryan, a Hebrew University scholar on Yemenite history.

Druryan was one of several experts speaking at the opening of celebrations marking the centennial of modern Yemenite aliya. The ceremony was held at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Givat Ram campus in the presence of President Yitzhak Navon.

The Yemenite aliya of 1882 will be marked in the coming year with exhibitions on Yemenite culture, publications, lectures and gatherings.

Druryan told the audience of about 200 (which included only a handful of Yemenites) that the early Yemenite arrivals in Jerusalem sometimes had to read from the Talmud for local Jews who feared that the "strange-looking" people were Arabs and not Jews.

Humanities dean Prof. Yehoshua Ben-Arieh said that wealthy philanthropists — most of them Sephardim — were appalled by the miserable conditions under which the first Yemenites lived, in tents, caves and dank basements. They built the first Yemenite quarter near Silwan, outside the walls of Jerusalem's Old City. After a few years, the immigrants themselves formed societies to buy land and build homes, some of which still stand in the capital's Nahlat Zvi, he said. The Yemenites demonstrated creativity and ability to adapt to new conditions, said Ben-Arieh.

Rabbi Yosef Kapach, the leading rabbi of Jerusalem's Yemenite community and a member of the Supreme Rabbinical Council, said the great Yemenite rabbis of the last century had refused to be supported by philanthropy had worked part-time as artisans and even as street cleaners.



Members of the Association for the Rescue of Ethiopian Jewry march to the Knesset to present a petition urging the government and the Jewish Agency to do more to help the Falashas still in Ethiopia. One placard reads, "Thousands of Jews are slaughtered daily." Another asks, "Why have all the promises been put on ice?" (Rahamim Israeli)

Hush debate on Falasha

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Jewish Agency Executive last week held a rare closed session to discuss the conditions of Falasha Jews in Ethiopia.

At the same time, over 100 Falasha Jews living in Israel held a protest march from a few kilometres outside Jerusalem to the Knesset, to call attention to what they claim is inadequate effort by the state and the Jewish Agency to help the persecuted Jews of Ethiopia.

Even the Jewish Agency spokesman was barred from the executive meeting, where an up-to-date report on Falasha Jewry was made, but, reportedly, no decisions were taken.

Aliya department chairman Raphael Kotlowitz, who chaired the weekly meeting in the absence of executive chairman Arye Dulin who is in Argentina, refused to comment on the Falasha demonstration.

"We're doing all that possibly can be done to help the Falashas," Kotlowitz told *The Jerusalem Post* after the meeting. "We don't oppose a public struggle to open the gates of Ethiopia," he added, even though Israeli leaders have counselled quiet diplomacy up to now.

Meanwhile, in an open session of the executive meeting, representatives of Georgian immigrants spoke about the growing social problems in their community due to difficulties in economic and social absorption. Dr. David Ben-Yosef and Rafi Bar-Lavi told executive members that some Georgian immigrants have emigrated recently, although emigration among this ethnic group has been almost negligible for years. They warned that this phenomenon could endanger potential immigration from Soviet Georgia.

Agency treasurer Akiva Lewinsky said that the authorities should give priority to the social absorption of Georgian immigrants.

Rabbis find a way to put mikve over cemetery

By BENNY MORRIS
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A new mikve in Jerusalem's Musrara quarter will be completed after all, following a ruling last week by the capital's chief rabbis that the problem of construction over an ancient cemetery can be bypassed without breaking religious law.

Rabbis Bezalel Zolti and Shalom Mashash said that the building contractors may now resume work on the ritual bath. The project was halted last month by Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren after a 50-cubic-metre mass grave from Roman or Byzantine times was discovered under the site.

Goren had firmly ruled that one cannot build a mikve tahara (a bath of cleansing) over a nekama tum'a (a site of uncleanness).

But the Ashkenazi chief rabbi was overruled on December 2 by the Chief Rabbinate Council, which includes Mashash and is presided over by Sephardi Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef. The council empowered the Jerusalem chief rabbis — rather than Goren — to decide on the matter and issue a halachic ruling.

Last Tuesday, Zolti, Mashash, the Musrara neighbourhood rabbi and other local religious officials visited the site, and the Jerusalem rabbis ruled that construction may be resumed.

"Our solution is anchored in the Talmudic instruction of kippi al gabei kippi — pillar upon pillar. The builders will make sure that the

three shafts where the bones were discovered will remain hollow and will be covered by concrete caps, and that a hollow will be left between these caps and the floor of the mikve," explained Zolti.

Zolti said that in any case, there is no tum'a involved if the bones were those of non-Jews. But he added: "After we make our architectural arrangement, kohanim will also be able to use the mikve."

Zolti said he has no argument with Goren. But "in Jerusalem, only the Jerusalem chief rabbis determine things. The national chief rabbis have no say in Jerusalem," said Zolti.

Zolti denied that pressure by Musrara residents to complete the building of the mikve was what had convinced him to allow construction to continue. "Public pressure does not influence my reading of the halacha," he said, though he did not deny that there had been pressure.

A spokesman for Jerusalem's ultra-Orthodox communities, who last summer staged massive riots to protest alleged violation of a possible cemetery by archeologists in the City of David dig, said that Zolti "has a halachic case."

"It would be preferable to find an alternative site," said Natorei Karla Rabbi Moshe Hirsch. But he added that in the absence of another site, and in view of Musrara residents' need for a mikve, the Talmud's Masechet Berachot, page 19, contains a ruling which allows construction



Rabbi Zolti

in a city above a burial site if appropriate hollows and air vents are built in. Hirsch said a shaft must connect the exposed bones with the air outside the building, "so that the tum'a will not rise and taint the structure above."

Some archeologists have speculated that the mass grave, containing tens of thousands of bones, may be the last resting place of Jewish warriors who fell during the Roman conquest of Jerusalem in 70 CE. Goren had wanted the archeologists, assisted by anthropologists, to determine the date of the bones. But the Education Ministry's Antiquities Department ruled that the site is "not of major importance," and declined to order a thorough archeological investigation or dig.

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THE GOLAN SURPRISE: HOW IT HAPPENED AND HOW IT WAS RECEIVED

The decision to apply Israel law to the Golan Heights — captured from Syria in the 1967 war — took the country and the world by surprise last week.

The cabinet, under Prime Minister Menachem Begin's energetic urging, took the decision at midday, and by midnight a bill announcing the immediate application of "Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration" to the Golan Heights had been steamrollered through all three

readings in the Knesset and become law. The bill split the Labour Alignment. After a lengthy and raucous faction meeting, the Alignment decided to "boycott" the Knesset proceedings as a protest against their unprecedented haste. But in the event, eight Labour pro-annexationists defied the faction's decision and joined with all the coalition factions, save Agudat Yisrael, to vote for the bill. Aguda abstained. Begin, discharged from hospital only on the

morning of the vote, had himself wheeled into the Knesset in a wheelchair and introduced the bill from the chair, seated at the cabinet table. He cited Syrian President Hafez Assad's assertion that Syria would never recognize Israel as a main reason for proposing the apparent annexation measure at this time. At the cabinet earlier he reportedly also spoke of international preoccupation with the Polish crisis as a reason for his choice of time for introducing the measure.

In angry and surprised reactions, the U.S. and Egypt both branded the Israeli move as a violation of Security Council Resolution 242 — and therefore of the Camp David framework. The U.N. Security Council was called into session at the request of Syria. Some observers saw the premier's move — which surprised even senior ministers — as intended to "test" Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak before Israel withdraws from the remainder of Sinai next April.

Bill rushed through hesitant cabinet

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Reporter

Not a single cabinet minister had any idea of what was in Prime Minister Begin's mind before he summoned Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Ariel Sharon to his bedside at 8.30 a.m. in Hadassah Hospital last Monday morning.

Although most ministers believed that paragraph 11 of the coalition platform about the Golan Heights was in that document merely as a matter of lip-service, they found nothing to say to Begin when he told them that it was now time to implement the paragraph.

Energy Minister Yitzhak Berman was the only minister to speak out openly against Begin's proposal when the full cabinet discussed it some hours later, after Mr. Begin's release from hospital, where he had been recovering from a fractured hip joint. Berman argued that it had been conceived in haste and more time was needed to study it.

Of the five or six ministers who spoke in the short cabinet session, none described the Golan law proposal enthusiastically.

Sharon said that any security problems likely to emerge in the wake of the law could easily be taken care of. Begin had asked him to prepare security measures prior to the passing of the law.

Shamir said that he was already issuing instructions to diplomatic missions abroad on how the legislation was to be explained.

Ministers told *The Jerusalem Post* that Begin presented his proposal with more vigour and emphasis than he had shown in cabinet sessions for the past few months.

Begin said that there would obviously be international opposition

to the law, but he was equally sure that the nation would rally round and withstand whatever pressures, if any, that the world might exert.

He said that the U.S. would be compelled to criticize the Golan Law in international forums, and that it might even lend its support to the UN to resolutions condemning Israel's move. But Israel would be prepared for such an eventuality, Begin said.

Begin hinted that there was no reason to shrink from confronting the U.S. on the Golan issue in view of the painful blow that the U.S. had dealt Israel over the AWACS sale to Saudi Arabia. Israel had an account to settle with the U.S. over the sale, he indicated, and this was one way of asserting Israel's independent political position.

Explaining the timing of his proposal, Begin reportedly referred to the Polish crisis now preoccupying the great powers. He also mentioned U.S. mediator Philip Habib's repeated failure to negotiate the removal of the Syrian anti-aircraft missiles deployed in eastern Lebanon.

The development which had especially spurred him to make the move at this time, Begin said, was



Energy Minister Yitzhak Berman... the only minister to speak out openly against the plan.

the statement by Syrian President Hafez Assad that Syria would not recognize Israel for 100 years even if the Palestine Liberation Organization were to recognize Israel.

Assad said that Syria was ready to wait and bide its time until Israel was weakened militarily. Begin therefore decided, apparently, that since there is no point in waiting for Syria, which refused to countenance recognition, let alone peace, Israel need not feel inhibited about annexing Syrian territory.

At 10 a.m. Deputy Prime Minister Simcha Ehrlich, Justice Minister Moshe Nissim, Minister without Portfolio Ya'acov Meridor, Health Minister Eliezer Shostak, Interior Minister Yosef Burg, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and Minister without Portfolio Yitzhak Moda'i were also called to Begin's hospital bedside. These seven plus the trio who met in the 8.30 a.m. consultation, constitute an unofficial cabinet security committee.

After the 10 a.m. meeting, Begin was whisked home in time to meet the full cabinet at noon and get its unanimous approval to place the necessary legislation before the Knesset.

Ministers who were unhappy about the move told *The Post* later that the manner in which Begin had prepared for the decision, in three separate meetings with groups of ministers, each with a larger number of participants, made the final unanimous vote a foregone conclusion. They said their reservations were not sufficiently strong to persuade them to defy Begin and to turn their backs on the coalition platform commitment.

Jews joyful, Druse glum at Golan act

Jerusalem Post Staff

KIRYAT SHMONA. — News of the Golan law took northern Israel by surprise. Jewish settlers and Druse alike were stunned. But amazement gave way to rejoicing among Golan settlers, with some Druse villagers sharing the happiness and others shrugging off the law as something that would not change their opposition to accepting Israeli citizenship.

Even Alignment-affiliated settlements on the Golan, including those belonging to Mapam's Kibbutz Artzi movement, greeted the news with satisfaction. But they were unanimous in condemning the manner in which it was put to the Knesset, castigating the government's action as "undemocratic."

When the news reached Kuzrin, the Israeli-built urban centre of the Golan, people there invited each other for drinks and plans were immediately made for the evening's festivities.

The chairman of the town's local council, Sami Bar-Lev, greeted the news with disbelief. "I've had no word of it, I don't believe it," he said. Then he added that he hoped the law presaged a change in government policy for other areas, including Yamit and the Sinai (areas to be handed over to Egypt under the peace treaty).

Reuven Ya'ari, a veteran Kuzrin resident, said, "We've been waiting four and a half years for this — ever since we came here."

The Golan Heights has a population of some 13,500 Druse who live in four large villages. There are 900 Alawi Moslems, and some 7,000 Israeli settlers in 31 settlements established since 1967.

Some Druse greeted the law as one that relieves them of religious pressures and permits them to become Israeli citizens.

But one young Druse told *The Jerusalem Post*, "I am a Druse by religion, and Arab by nationality. Syria is my homeland and I prefer to remain Syrian." Another claimed that the law had destroyed any chance of making peace with Syria.

Shakib Abu Salah, a member of the pro-Israel Druse, claimed: "Annexation will increase the unity of the Druse community and weaken the prestige and political status of the pro-Syrian group."

"We have to bring up our children to know that this is their permanent home," Shimon Sheves, chairman of the Israeli Golan Heights settlement committee, said.

Residents of kibbutzim and moshavim along the northern border said they feared an escalation of terrorist activity from Lebanon.

But in the Druse villages on the

Heights, pro-Syrian groups immediately called for a three-day general strike.

Several religious leaders announced that they will not take part in the protests proposed by the radical groups. But other Druse priests said that those who ignore the strike call will be excommunicated.

Defence Minister Ariel Sharon reviewed the military situation with officers of the Northern Command in Nazareth Tuesday and then flew to meet with settlers' leaders at an army base on the Golan.

Late on Monday night, he had assured settlers who had come to the Knesset to congratulate the government on the passing of the law that the military situation was being taken care of. "You are now the masters of the Golan," he told the settlers.

Druse and young men weighed the implications of the new law in heated discussions on the main street of Majdal Shams, the largest Druse community in the area.

At the same time, settlers in the 31 Jewish settlements began to clean out bomb shelters. Tank transports moved on roads in the north and UNDOF personnel were highly visible in their white vehicles as they travelled back to the area from leave in Israel.

Some of the young men in Majdal Shams were vociferous in their criticism of the law, but even more apparent was their frustration — some calling for Soviet intervention on behalf of Syria in view of Israel's apparent indifference to international reaction.

Sheikh Kamal Kanj, a prominent pro-Syrian leader who has spent three years in prison on charges of spying for Syria and inciting the local residents, said:

"This decision will not make any difference — we were and remain Arab and Syrian by nationality."

Mixed feelings characterized the mood on Kibbutz Merom Hagolan, which was the first settlement to be established on the Golan in July 1967.

Amram Lotam, the young farm manager, said that it was difficult for him to envisage how any Jewish resident of the area could not welcome the decision.

But a young woman, who refused to give her name, said that there were also people on the kibbutz who felt that the Golan Law was unnecessary. "There was reason for it 12 years ago but not now," she said.

The officers of the Golan regional council were inundated with telephone calls of congratulation, and officials were making plans to use the mood generated by the occasion to bolster the Stop the Withdrawal from Sinai movement.

THE GOLAN SURPRISE

Egypt says it won't back Syria in war

Post Mideast Affairs Reporter

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak stated categorically last week that while Egypt regards the extension of Israeli law to the Golan Heights as an obstacle to peace, it would not back Syria should it go to war with Israel, and that Israel-Egyptian relations would not be affected by the move.

"If Syria decides to start a war with Israel, that is their business," Mubarak told newsmen in Cairo, after emerging from a meeting with a visiting Sudanese delegation.

Asked about the 1954 collective defence pact, which groups the member states of the Arab League from which Egypt has been suspended since concluding its peace treaty with Israel, Mubarak reportedly replied: "The present Arab situation has proved that this agreement has no value, is more ink on paper and cannot be implemented."

He said the Golan Law was unlikely to damage Israel-Egyptian relations.

Nevertheless, Mubarak has clearly been placed in an invidious position by the Golan move, and

though he reacted promptly by rejecting it as "illegitimate" and in contravention of the Camp David accord, he appears determined to do or say nothing that could possibly jeopardize Israel's withdrawal from Sinai next April.

Post Diplomatic Correspondent
David Landau writes:

In Jerusalem, there was gratification when it became apparent that Egypt's objections to the Golan Law would not disrupt the peace process.

This became clear when the autonomy talks on the experts' level resumed as normal Tuesday morning, the day after the Knesset approved the Golan Law. The Egyptian delegation had asked for a postponement of Monday afternoon's session when it learned of the cabinet's decision.

In a radio interview last week, Shamir said there was no reason for any build-up of bitterness in Egypt over the Golan measure which was a "legitimate step by Israel to ensure its security."

The Egyptians need have no com-

plaints against Israel, Shamir added, because Israel "is doing the giving and Egypt the taking" in the Israel-Egypt relationship. Israel for its part had complaints over Egypt's attitude towards the normalization and over "the atmosphere in Egypt today." But "we are doing everything to overcome the obstacles...and to broaden and deepen the peace," the foreign minister noted.

The Foreign Ministry, meanwhile, has launched an energetic campaign to put over Israel's case on the Golan Law. Shamir sent letters to the foreign ministers of all the countries with which Israel has ties, explaining the background and the motive behind the law.

Officials said Director-General David Kimche had given orders to prepare information material several months ago in view of the government's decision-in-principle to annex the Golan at a propitious moment.

The Foreign Ministry is not using the term "annexation," but neither is it arguing that the new law means anything else.

Privately some officials contended that what Israel had done was a shade less than annexation, because it was not imposing its citizenship upon the (non-Israeli) inhabitants of the Golan.

Shamir was unwontedly sharp in his criticism of former premier Yitzhak Rabin (Alignment-Labour) who wrote last week that the Golan Law was "the beginning of the end" of Camp David.

The new law would serve to "inculcate into the consciousness of the world" that "the borders of Eretz Yisrael include the Golan Heights." Israel sought to inform the world "that we will never return to the 1967 lines."

Interviewer Shimon Shiffer: "In that case, it would be as well if Israel applied its law and administration to Judea and Samaria too?"

Shamir: "No — Because Israel signed the Camp David Accords and the peace treaty with Egypt. It undertook to set up autonomy in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. Israel is faithful to its undertakings."

The unanswered legal question

By DAVID LANDAU

Post Diplomatic Correspondent
Are the Golan Heights now part of the State of Israel? The Foreign Ministry said last week that it does not know the answer to this question.

It is the Foreign Ministry, according to top government legal sources, which is legally required to determine the state's borders and to certify whether a particular place is inside Israel or not.

The Jerusalem Post therefore asked the Foreign Ministry Wednesday to make a determination in respect of the Golan Heights, in the wake of Monday's law applying "Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration" to the Heights. After a day of deliberation and consultation, the ministry spokesman said he could not at this time determine officially and authoritatively whether the Golan Heights are part of Israel — because this is a "legal question" — and the ministry's legal adviser is busy with the autonomy talks in Tel Aviv.

These talks were due to end Thursday, and then, perhaps, the legal adviser, Elyakim Rubinstein, would "sit down and write a legal opinion on the matter." This might take him several days, the spokesman said.

By asking whether the Golan is part of Israel, *The Post* was in fact asking whether the Heights had been annexed by last week's legislation and the government statement attached to it.

Under international law, "any expression of the conqueror's will to treat the territory as his own suffices for sovereignty." (D.P. O'Connell: *International Law* Vol. 1, P. 434.)

The new law itself does not necessarily establish Israeli sovereignty over (i.e. annex) the Golan and there is a Supreme Court *obiter dictum* to this effect by ex-justice Haim Cohn. However, the law was accompanied by "expressions" of the government's apparent intention to treat the Golan as part of Israel.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir,

for instance, said on Tuesday that the law should "inculcate into the consciousness" of foreign nations that "the borders of Eretz Israel include the Golan Heights."

Had the foreign minister said "the State of Israel," there would hardly be room for more doubt that Israel has in fact annexed the Golan — but he said "Eretz Israel," which might have been a deliberate distinction.

Prime Minister Menachem Begin himself, during last week's Knesset debate, said that he did not "use the term 'annexation,'" but rather stuck to the wording of the new law. He did not, however, contend that the use of the term was mistaken.

In subsequent diplomatic and information activities by Israel, the issue seems to have been dodged as far as possible. Israeli officials admit privately that the term "annex" tends to trigger adverse responses.

Interior Minister Yosef Burg last Wednesday gazetted the first regulations applying to the Golan

Heights stemming from the Knesset decision to impose Israeli law on the area.

The regulations, technical in nature, were aimed at ensuring the continuity of administrative and judicial actions taken under the aegis of the military government now that the area has come under Israeli law.

"If you were sitting in jail under the previous law, you'll continue to do so. If you had a driver's licence issued on the Golan Heights, it will continue to be in effect," an Interior Ministry official explained.

David Richardson adds:

The government's bill to extend Israel's "law, jurisdiction and administration" to the Golan Heights does not quite amount to annexation of the area occupied by Israel during the 1967 war, according to a prominent international lawyer.

"If you like, it's 90 per cent of annexation. But it still falls short of sovereignty over the area," said Professor Yoram Dinstein of Tel Aviv University.



Syria's Assad

The Assad statement

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — The Syrian Ambassador to the UN says that Prime Minister Menachem Begin has distorted the remarks made by Syrian President Hafez Assad to a Kuwaiti newspaper.

The envoy, Rafic Jonejati, insists that Assad never expressed his determination to refuse to recognize Israel "even if the Palestinians desire to do so" — as quoted by Begin.

Interviewed on T.V., the Syrian envoy said that his country was indeed prepared to negotiate peace with Israel.

(But in Kuwait, a top editor of the radical newspaper *Al-Rai Al-Ahm* confirmed to AP that Assad had told the paper in an interview that Syria will not recognize Israel. Abdullah Al-Qay told the Associated Press that Assad's statement on that score was not printed by the paper in direct quotes, however. "We phrased it this way," President Assad said we will not recognize Israel even if the Palestinians recognized it," said Al-Qay.)

Jonejati said Assad had rejected peace with Israel "so long as Israel refuses to accept Palestinian self-determination and the inadmissibility of gaining territory by force." If Israel were to accept those two principles, Syria would sit down to negotiate peace, he said. "We always call for just negotiations."

Asked whether Syria's vision of a comprehensive peace had room for an independent state of Israel, Jonejati replied, "of course." But he added, "We want the peace process to end the state of war and it should be global, solving the Palestinian question, which is the root of the conflict."

Then a confused Knesset approves

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN
Post Knesset Reporter

After almost six hours of hectic parliamentary activity, the Knesset, in a vote of 63-21, passed in its third and final reading, the Golan Heights Bill, imposing Israeli law on the Golan.

The bill was supported by the coalition factions, minus Agudat Yisrael (which did not vote), Tehiya and eight Alignment-Labour hawks.

It was opposed by the (Communist) Democratic Front, Shinui, Telem, and 13 Alignment doves — seven of them from the Labour wing and six from Mapam.

The Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee revised the wording of the original Paragraph 3, detailing the authority of the minister of interior to promulgate regulations and requiring him to consult with the justice minister.

The Knesset defeated a minority amendment by Amnon Rubinstein (Shinui) which would have added a fourth paragraph to the bill as follows: "Nothing in this law shall preclude Israel from entering peace negotiations with Syria when the latter expresses its readiness to recognize Israel and to live with it in peace."

Prime Minister Menachem Begin said from his place: "That's self-evident. The moment Syria is ready to negotiate a peace agreement, we'll be ready."

Begin said in his reply that the U.S. had not been consulted in connection with the bill. If they had been, Begin said, he had no doubt that their reply would have been total opposition.

Sitting in a wheelchair at the cabinet table in the Knesset chamber, Begin asked:

the House to approve the cabinet's unanimous decision of a few hours earlier to apply Israeli law to the Golan Heights.

The delivery of the prime minister's speech from his place and not from the rostrum was not the only extraordinary aspect of the session.

The other was the absence of the 49-member Alignment faction, who were debating elsewhere in the building whether to boycott the session and/or the vote to protest the undue haste with which the bill had been presented to the Knesset.

On the first reading, the bill passed 60-17 and 17 Alignment members violated the faction's decision not to take part in the vote, with seven of them voting for the bill and 10 voting against it.

The bill was supported by the

(Continued on page 10)

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Labour wants its rebels punished

By SARAH HONIG and ASHER WALLFISH

TEL AVIV. — Labour Party sources said last week that "very stiff measures" are being considered against the Alignment MKs who defied their Knesset faction decision to boycott the Knesset debate and participated in the vote on the Golan Law.

"This time there will be no pointless, lengthy debates, soul-searching and the like. We intend to take drastic, unequivocal action to prevent a split in the faction," *The Jerusalem Post* was told.

The proposals for punitive measures against the rebel MKs — those who voted for the government-sponsored Golan bill and those who oppose it — will be presented to the Alignment faction this week. And Mapam's threats to bolt the Alignment if Labour does not rein its hawks are also expected to come up for discussion this week.

Labour Chairman Shimon Peres told Israel Radio the time has come to "take measures against those who violate faction discipline, if we wish a faction to exist."

Peres said that he personally considers the Golan to be a part of Eretz Yisrael, but that the argument centres on world opinion. It would simply be wiser to say that "we are prepared for a territorial compromise, even if it's only one square centimetre."

He added that he does not believe Israeli law should be extended to all of the West Bank but to parts of it. However, this should only follow peace negotiations with Jordan.

Mapam leader Victor Shemtov warned that "a process of disintegration is now discernible in Labour and if it is not quickly checked, it may well result in the disbanding of the Alignment."

Some Labour Party members in the Golan Heights and Galilee announced that they are leaving the party because its MKs did not vote in favour of the law. Meir Vaish, secretary of the party's branch in Katrin, said that the party had been short-sighted in staying away from the vote.

Most Alignment MKs abstained in the vote on the first reading, in line with a faction decision passed by 31 votes against eight, in a wrangle lasting nearly six hours. But



Faction chief Shimon Peres, who was abroad on the fateful day.



MK Katz-Oz... "personal commitment to vote for the Likud bill."

a sizeable minority of the Alignment chose to take sides in the subsequent readings.

Eight Labour MKs voted with the coalition, two Labour MKs, all seven Mapam MKs and the CRM's Shulamit Aloni voted against the bill.

Voting with the coalition were Abraham Katz-Oz, Danny Rosolio and Ya'acov Tsur (all kibbutz members), Shoshana Arbeli, Jacques Amir, Tamar Eshel and Ra'anan Na'im. Yosef Sarid and Uzi Baran voted against the bill.

Alignment members of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee boycotted the two-hour session called to prepare the bill on the second reading.

Alignment chairman Moshe Shalom opened the six-hour faction marathon by relating what Begin had told him when he called him to his home at 1.30 p.m. to explain the Golan initiative.

Begin said the Syrian statement offered a golden opportunity to table a law for which there was already a national consensus, in his view.

Begin said that the law would attract a favourable public opinion in the U.S. because Syria backed Libya in Colonel Gaddafi's confront-

tation with America.

Shalom said that he had phoned party chairman Shimon Peres, who was still in the U.S., and Peres urged the Alignment not to cooperate on a rush debate in one day.

Shalom said that Begin wanted the Alignment's reaction before the House Committee met at 3.30 p.m. This threw the faction into a commotion, with shouts that the Alignment need pay no attention to schedules laid down by the Likud.

Gad Ya'acobi set the dominant trend by saying that the Golan initiative involved such a crucial national issue that the Alignment must not allow itself to be railroaded.

"This is cynical exploitation of technical parliamentary procedures to enforce an anti-democratic dictatorship of the majority," Ya'acobi said.

Ya'acobi urged a boycott of the vote. But when Katz-Oz said that he had previous commitments to support the bill, Sarid said it left him no choice but to vote against the bill.

Mordechai Gur predicted that the Golan issue would "shatter the party into as many splinters as a Pyrex dish. We are being asked to give legitimacy to the madness of Arik Sharon. Arik wants war with the Syrians, at no matter what cost. The government seeks a flare-up in the north to distract attention from the Yamit troubles and the presence of Syrian missiles in Lebanon."

Chaim Herzog warned that the law would threaten Israel's international position. "The Soviet Union will now be able to get Poland off the UN agenda and put Israel on. Assad will be able to get rid of the UNDOF contingents on the Golan and mend his fences with the PLO."

Danny Rosolio argued that consultations with legal experts showed that the law did not amount to annexation.

Katz-Oz insisted, "If there is one reason for my membership in the Knesset, it is to push through legislation concerning the Golan Heights. This is the day I have been working for."

All of Mapam's MKs voted against the bill.

Court rejects bail for suspected terrorist

TEL AVIV (Itim). — Zind Abu Eian, the alleged terrorist extradited from the U.S. on charges of murder and causing bodily injury, has been ordered held until the end of trial by the Tel Aviv District Court.

The 22-year-old resident of El-Bireh, on the West Bank was charged two years ago in the May 14, 1979, Tiberias bombing which left two persons dead and 36 wounded. The evidence against him consists of a confession by an accomplice to the act, caught after Abu Eian fled the country. The extradition came after a long, drawn-out legal battle in the U.S. during which the defendant's lawyers argued that his alleged crime was political, and therefore not a basis for extradition.

Defence attorney Fuad Shahada on Thursday asked for Abu Eian's release on bail, but the court said it could not do so when such a serious charge is involved.

At the UN, meanwhile, the General Assembly, over vigorous American objections, adopted a



Abu Eian (Keren)

resolution last week that "strongly deplores" the U.S. extradition of Abu Eian to Israel.

The vote was 75-21, with three NATO members — France, Greece and Turkey — among 43 abstainers. Other members of the alliance joined the U.S. and Israel in voting against the resolution.

Abu Eian's extradition led to disturbances in several parts of the West Bank last week.

At the Kalandiya refugee camp

Violent clashes mark NRP 'showdown' meet

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. — National Religious Party leaders on Thursday brawled at a meeting here. A showdown that was supposed to take place in the afternoon between Interior Minister Yosef Burg and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, over the question of primacy in the party, never took place.

The 270 members of the NRP executive arrived at B'nai B'rith House for the crucial session in which Hammer was expected to challenge Burg for control of the politically vital Religious Affairs

portfolio. The atmosphere was charged with tension and a fight broke out when the strongman of Burg's Lamifne faction, Raphael Ben-Natan, posted guards to prevent the entry of members of the breakaway Tami party.

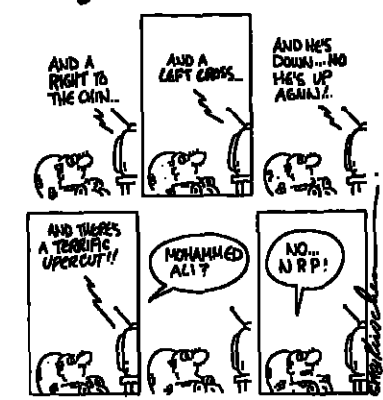
The members whose entry was barred were all Hammer supporters and all carried valid membership cards.

Before long a free-for-all ensued, accompanied by much shouted abuse. At one point the police appeared, but left when no one could determine who had alerted them.

During the melee, however, members of the Kibbutz Hadati movement continued their mediation attempts of the previous days. They stressed that if no accommodation between the sides was found, the party would be as good as split, because the violent clashes made it impossible for the executive session to get under way.

Hammer told the executive: "The way this struggle is being waged does not augur well for the party in the coming fortnight. We are sinking lower with every passing week and in this way we will not bring back those who deserted this party, nor keep the support we now have."

Dry Bones



Gaza Strip strike ends after 16 days

Jerusalem Post Reporter
The professional and commercial strike which almost halted economic life in Gaza for 16 days ended on Wednesday after a meeting between Mayor Rashid Shawwa and representatives of the strikers and the civilian administrator of the area, Brigadier Yosef Lunz.

Details of a compromise worked out between the mayor and the military authorities were not released, but it is understood to include a delay in the implementation of a 42 per cent value-added tax. After the meeting Shawwa reportedly said, "We have reached an understanding that will ensure the interests of the population."

CONFUSED KNESSET

(Continued from page 8)

Likud, the National Religious Party, Tami, Tehiya and the following Alignment members: Abraham Katz-Oz, Daniel Rosolio, Jacques Amir, Tamar Eshel, Shoshana Arbeli-Almozino, Ra'anan Na'im and Ya'acov Tsur, with Shlomo Hillel joining on the final reading.

It was opposed by the Democratic Front, Shinui, Telem and the following Alignment members: Uzi Baran, Yossi Sarid, (from the Labour wing), Naftali Feder, Yair Saban, Dov Zakim, Victor Shemtov, Elazar Granot, Imri Ron, Mohammed Watad (from the Mapam wing) and Shulamit Aloni. Alignment members Ya'acov Gil, Shevah Weiss and Hamad Haleila joined the opposition on the final reading.

Agudat Yisrael did not take part in the vote.

Reading vigorously from a prepared text, Begin asked whether Israel was supposed to wait indefinitely for a sign from the Syrians that they were prepared to talk with Israel about peace and good-neighbourly relations.

Justifying the government's decision, Begin recalled the Syrian position at the recent Arab summit conference at Fez.

There, Begin recalled, Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul-Halim Khaddam, in rejecting Prince Fahd's plan for the Middle East, had come out against the submis-

sion of any kind of plan by the Arabs. They should rather "wait a 100 years or more, until Israel will be weakened, and then we will act."

And later, Syrian President Hafez Assad had confirmed Khaddam's statement, Begin said, quoting from the Kuwaiti newspaper, *Al-Rai al-Aam*:

At the beginning of his 17-minute speech, Begin read out the three paragraphs of the Golan Heights Bill:

1. "The law, jurisdiction and administration of the state shall apply to the Golan Heights, as described in the appendix."

2. "This law shall become valid on the day of its passage in the Knesset."

3. "The minister of interior shall be charged with the implementation of this law, and he may promulgate regulations for its implementation."

Begin noted that for many generations the Golan Heights were an integral part of the Land of Israel. It was only the arbitrary decision of two colonialist powers after World War I which excluded the area from Palestine.

The opening of the session was delayed from 4 p.m. to 5:20 to allow the bill to be printed and distributed.

The House Committee freed the bill from the required two-day waiting period between tabling the first reading, and the one-day waiting period between first and second readings.

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THE WAY in which the Golan Heights Law was rushed through the political and the legislative machines is both disgraceful and harmful.

Even given that the issue as such is not new, since it is controversial (unlike the Unification of Jerusalem Law of 1967), the Knesset, the parties and the press should have been given a chance to deliberate the text and the timing of the measure, which is a matter of such great importance.

The government's hasty action, which prevented this process, made a mockery of the parliamentary system. Instead of inviting an exchange of ideas, the machinery was put into such a high gear that even the docile and ever-loyal Aguda members rebelled against the bulldozer technique.

There was no need for this dramatic action. The law would have gained, not lost, support in the Knesset if the normal week or two of parliamentary debate had been allowed, instead of six hours.

Some assume that the international circumstances were propitious for the initiative at the time. But these events are not likely to disappear overnight. If they do, it would still have been much better to have risked a measure of international censure — which in any event is unavoidable — rather than further denigrating the Knesset.

Moreover, the adoption of such procedure indicates that Israel is not really as impervious to outside pressures as the government would suggest. Indeed, the hasty action suggests that a normal process might have been disrupted — or even halted — by American intervention. This lesson may cause us real difficulties in other matters that are pending.

The amendment suggested by Amnon Rubinstein, MK, to the effect that the law would not affect future efforts to reach a peace agreement with Syria, though perhaps weakening the law, would have taken away some of its sting. Unfortunately, even this amendment was denied.

While the government was thus wrong in abusing the Knesset, it was right on the law itself.

The security of our settlements in the Jordan Valley is predicated on the control of the Heights. We did

A good law, but handled badly

Gideon Hausner argues that Syrian belligerence justifies Israel's adoption of the Golan law. He is critical however of the way the law was passed by the Knesset.



Prime Minister Menachem Begin follows the Knesset debate on the Golan bill in his wheelchair. Alongside him is Deputy Prime Minister Simcha Ehrlich.

not annex the area immediately after the Six Day War because we hoped that if peace with Syria materialized, we would have something to give to Syria in exchange.

With the settling of the Golan Heights, that "something" shrank in size. Yet it continued to exist, even after Kuneitra was given back after the Yom Kippur War. Now, with Assad's back turned firmly to peace, there is nothing more to wait for.

The U.S. can afford to be patient

in the face of Iranian provocation. Its patience does not seriously prejudice its position as a superpower. By virtually not reacting to acts of hostility by Iran, the U.S. did not have to reckon with a terrorist reaction by a part of its own population because it has no such disloyal citizens. Israel does — in Israel proper and in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

The U.S. does not have neighbours who are waiting for a moment of weakness in order to attack it. Israel does have enemies on

its borders who are just waiting for an opportunity to jump at its jugular. Indeed, the Syrian foreign minister has said that Syria will wait for this, even if it has to wait for a hundred years.

It is a comparatively modest statement. Some Arab dignitaries had earlier maintained that even if Israel lasted as long as the Crusaders' Kingdom — two hundred years — they would still not make peace with the Jewish state.

All these statements are intended to strengthen the PLO in disrupting by terror the ongoing peace process with Egypt. If Israel does not react to these dangerous moves, as a chess player reacts to the moves of his opponent, the whole process will eventually bog down. It will be assumed that Israel has no counter-moves at all.

The Arabs states must realize that they stand to lose by their intransigence.

It was bad enough at the Fez summit where Arab rulers preferred a shameful breach even to the acceptance of the vague Saudi peace formula. Assad's declaration of "eternal war" demanded a reaction.

It is maintained that the Ba'ath regime in Syria will not last forever. Of course it will not. But what other political forces are emerging in Syria? Assad's opposition lies in the Moslem Brotherhood, which opposes him not on his policy towards Israel but on internal issues. The Moslem Brotherhood is not leaning towards peace any more than is Assad.

THERE ARE two further Arab factors to be considered — Egypt and Jordan. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is now groping his way back towards the Arab family. Perhaps it is wise to place the dilemma before him now: peace with Israel or "Arab unity."

Egypt is angry, but its anger actually stems from its frustration at not being able to bring more Arab countries to the negotiating table. Israel, however, is not to blame for their irrational behaviour.

Then there is Jordan which continues to sit on the fence, pretending it has all the time in the world to make up its mind. Jordan is behaving as if it can claim, at will, a title to Judea and Samaria. Populated areas,

however, are not objects that can be pawned for a time and then recovered on presentation of a ticket of unlimited validity.

The signal to Jordan provided by the Golan Heights Law is that Israel will not wait forever. The message is particularly timely, with the autonomy negotiations now resumed and the future of Judea, Samaria and Gaza being decided. King Hussein, too, must decide where he is heading.

FINALLY, consideration must be given to the international scene and to public opinion in the U.S.

Israel owes no apology to the UN, which has tolerated countless acts of aggression in the world generally and against Israel particularly. Israel has, by and large, exercised restraint in its treatment of the population in the administered areas. Nor has Israel barred the way of these inhabitants to the High Court of Justice, though this could easily have been done by raising an arguable objection. The attorney-general, however, did not do so. And the High Court of Justice, for its part, has scrupulously observed the legal rights of the population of the territories.

Israel has acted in such a way because it respects law, not to curry favour with the UN. But if all the recognition we ever get there consists of repeated resolutions of condemnation and of blame, there is little to expect from this august body. Instead of stigmatizing aggressors, the UN keeps rebuking the victims in an ever-rising crescendo.

To the U.S. public, we owe the explanation that the Golan Heights is basically a security matter. Almost all U.S. visitors, including presidents, secretaries of state, senators and members of the House of Representatives, when visiting the Golan Heights, have openly conceded that Israel can never give it up. To Israelis, this has always been self-evident.

Now we, too, have said it openly and in legal terms. The U.S. did not censure Israel for the settlements in the Golan Heights. Why should it disapprove of our statement that these settlements are there to stay?

The writer is a former Cabinet Minister and Attorney-General.

enabled us to maintain a consensual posture. The confidence of peoples in every part of the world, including Israel, in the decision-making process of the Israeli Government has been weakened.

Not an ounce of strength has been added to the Israeli position in the Golan, while tons of useless burden have been laid on the shoulders of the entire nation.

The reasons for this bizarre action are no less disquieting than the decision itself. Mr. Begin has let it be known that he believes that the U.S. and the Soviet Union are occupied with the Polish question so that they have no time for the Golan problem. He thus commits Israel to an intolerably parochial stance. Israel should have an interest in enabling support for democracy in Poland to be developed to the full.

Another motive is said to be Syrian President Assad's fiery speeches. This is the most trivial reaction of all. There would be no difficulty in quoting such statements by Syrian leaders every month — including the months during which Mr. Begin resolutely opposed Golan legislation.

In the summer of 1974, Henry

Kissinger informed Yigal Allon and me at Lod airport that Assad had just told him that he would "never, never" sign a disengagement agreement with Israel, since this would imply Syrian legitimization of Israel's control of most of the Golan for an unspecified period. A few weeks later, Assad signed the agreement which he had "sworn" never to conclude.

Nor is it long ago that Egyptian leaders, including Anwar Sadat, were saying that there would never be a meeting with an Israeli representative so long as a single Israeli soldier stood on a single inch of Arab soil. This rhetoric did not drive any Israeli government into the annexation of Sinai which would have foreclosed the option of peace.

INTERNATIONAL indignation at Israeli actions has often been exaggerated and usually transient. Mr. Begin probably banks on the prospect of securing acquiescence in this action as well. But here the issues are more complex than usual. It is not easy to recall a precedent in recent years of a country annexing a territory, hitherto recognized by all

(Continued on next page)

Follow the leader

By Asher Wallfish
Post Knesset Reporter

THE WAY in which the democratically elected parliament of a sovereign nation decided to annex 1,700 square kilometres of foreign territory, between tea-time and supper one day last week, lends itself to many political and psychological comments on the nature of our parliamentary parties and their members.

Inside the ruling Likud, the ground had long been fertile, politically speaking, for a proposal like the Golan Law.

The Herut wing of the Likud, the largest and most important (ing), did not ask why the Golan had not been annexed before. So Herut hands were raised on the vote, in an automatic political reflex. They were boosted by the premier's reminder that the Golan was part of historic Eretz Yisrael, and by the assumption that what was good for one part of historic Eretz Yisrael, north-east of the Jordan, would one day be good for historic Eretz Yisrael west of the river.

The Liberal wing of the Likud was swept along by the Herut tide, as though it lacked a political will of its own. In the past few years, an increasing number of Liberal MKs have swung to the right, away from the traditional centre, and therefore tend to accept Herut positions on security affairs as a matter of course.

Not a single other Liberal MK emulated the example of Liberal Energy Minister Yitzhak Berman, who refused to vote for the Golan Law in the cabinet, and then in the Knesset.

Other Liberal MKs, and other Liberal cabinet ministers, are known to have shared some of Berman's doubts, but they did not share his readiness to risk the consequences, either because they stand further to the right, or because they feel less secure.

The La'am wing of the Likud shares the political approach of the Herut wing, with regard to the Golan.

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL implications of Likud behaviour on the Golan Law go deeper, however.

Even one or two Herut MKs admit that they felt slighted because

they were taken for granted. Nobody had the decency, they say, to convene them for five short minutes before the first reading of the Golan Law and present a few reasons in explanation. There was plenty of time, they note, because the session was postponed for an hour and 20 minutes, and they were waiting around with nothing to do. Instead, they were treated, as it were, like a squad at a military glass-house: told to fall in at the double; brought to attention; and marched into the chamber without being told why and wherefore.

There is a feeling in the Likud that if you want to get on in politics, it pays to keep your mouth shut and not contradict the boss. Nobody in the Likud forgets that those who have tangled with Menachem Begin over the years usually came a cropper. The history of the right wing in this country is littered with the wreckage of political careers. Only a handful of men, for whom Begin had and still has respect (and such are rare), have challenged Begin's theses, and not been tongue-lashed by him.

This handful includes Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and ambassador-designate Moshe Arens, who rejected Begin's Camp David proposal; as well as Berman, who challenged Begin three months ago over the Saudi Arabian plan for the Middle East.

It is well-known in the Likud that Begin shows no mercy to those who attack him personally, like former defence minister Ezer Weizman and to those who criticize him intellectually but are vulnerable to his sarcasm (unlike Shamir, Arens and Berman).

But the psychological readiness of the Likud to fall in with Begin's orders unquestionably is not only the result of its members' awe. They admire him so intensely because they realize they owe their places in the Knesset to his electoral magnetism.

Without him, they realize, the Likud would be nowhere. And the

esteem they feel for Begin is inversely proportional to the esteem in which they hold themselves.

Likud members undoubtedly follow Begin blindly over such measures as the Golan Law because they admire him for his audacity and vigour, and regard him as the fountain head of all political wisdom.

One Likud MK told me, in a jesting tone which did not mask his real belief: "What do we need a democracy for in which everyone has his say and nothing gets done? Do we want to be like the Alignment? All we need in our sort of democracy is to be presented with a sound proposal and asked for our approval."

"Begin is our man, because we imagined him waking up in the morning, thinking of an idea which will change something in the world, figuring out how it will catch the powers napping, and then going ahead and doing it."

THE IMAGE of the Alignment last week, when the Golan Law was bulldozed through the Knesset, was the precise opposite.

Unlike the Likud, the Alignment suffers from too little leadership, not too much.

Alignment leader Shimon Peres has not yet understood that he has to be in the country from Monday afternoon to Wednesday afternoon inclusive, if he does not want Begin to catch him with his pants down once again.

The trouble in the Labour wing of the Alignment over the Golan Law all started with Avraham Katz-Oz, and with a show of forceful leadership, it could have ended with Katz-Oz as well.

Katz-Oz's personal commitment to the Golan settlers could have been neutralized with a reminder to him that the United Kibbutz Movement was bound to refer all legislation on the Golan issue to its authorized bodies, and not rush helter-skelter after the Likud.

The Alignment proved last week that when one man breaks the rules, many others seek the same licence for themselves.

And the Golan Law provided one more nail in the Alignment's electoral coffin for next time round.



Druse children waving black flags greet a contingent of Border Police as it arrives in the Golan Heights village of Mas'ada to disperse a student demonstration against the extension of Israeli law to the Golan. (UPPA)

EDITORIAL COMMENT

On behalf of the Falashas

SHOULD "quiet diplomacy" be junked in favour of a "public struggle" to save the estimated 28,000 Falashas of Ethiopia from the extinction that threatens them, and bring them to Israel?

This has been a contentious issue for years. The official policy of the Israeli government, and of the world Jewish organization — has been to rely on unpublicized diplomatic contacts with the Ethiopian authorities on behalf of the Falashas. The presence in Israel of a mere 1,300 Falashas, however, testifies to the very modest success of those efforts.

The late Haile Selassie, "Lion of Judah" and last friend of Israel that he was, consistently blocked the departure of Falashas from his kingdom. The emperor took a dim view of the exit of any minority group among the several score that make up Ethiopia, for fear that the example might become infectious.

When the emperor was deposed by the revolutionary, pro-Soviet Dergue, seven years ago, the Falashas' prospects of aliyah did not improve, while their condition within Ethiopia was considerably worsened. As a result, this tiny remnant of a once large and thriving community is now facing its darkest hour.

In Gondar province, where most of them are concentrated, the Falashas were four years ago caught in a vice between the rebellious, dispossessed landowners, who blame them for their own misfortunes, and who have subjected the Falashas to murder, rape and sale into slavery, and the provincial Dergue governor, reportedly the cruellest in Ethiopia, who views them as "Zionist spies."

The landowners have since then been defeated, but the governor, Major Melaku, has unleashed a virtual reign of terror against the Falashas, denying them health care, closing down their religious schools, and imprisoning and torturing their leaders. Thousands of Falashas are reported to have perished during the past several months alone from hunger and disease. A few hundred have managed to escape to neighbouring countries, where they are being persecuted by their fellow non-Jewish refugees, but the vast majority have been unable to move out. They are being kept almost completely out of touch with the outside world.

The only rational solution to the Falasha problem is clearly immigration to Israel. The Falashas are, indeed, the one badly oppressed Jewish community in the world today — they were formally recognized as Jews under the Law of Return in 1975 — that is positively aching to come back to the Jewish homeland. The least that Israel could do is stretch out its arms to them.

Falashas already in Israel are understandably less than ecstatic about the progress made by "quiet diplomacy" in offering succour to their oppressed kinsmen. That traditional policy has not been wholly without benefit.

There has, nevertheless, been some reason to believe that "quiet diplomacy" in some measure only concealed reluctance to press too hard for the influx of thousands of primitive, dark-skinned farmers and metal-workers into a country still wrestling with decades-old challenges of absorption.

Today the situation has taken the dimensions of an outright disaster, which is what may have prompted the chairman of the Jewish Agency's aliyah department, Raphael Kollowitz, to declare last week: "We do not oppose a public struggle to open the gates of Ethiopia." That need not, of course, mean that quiet diplomacy is inherently useless, and that open protest will by itself achieve the Falasha purpose.

A judicious combination of both methods of persuasion might conceivably be effective in inducing the rulers of Addis Ababa to follow the example of their Soviet allies and mentors, and allow the reunification of Jews with their families in Israel.

The dramatic return of premier Begin

PUBLIC FACES/Mark Segal

NOT SINCE Raymond Burr as *Ironside* disappeared from our screens has Israel TV shown as dramatic an entrance as the return to political life last week by our prime minister.

One story making the rounds is that Begin decided to come back with a bang to still rumours sweeping the country that his health was deteriorating. There were also newspaper stories that may have disturbed Begin — like a recent *Jerusalem Post* poll, which showed Defence Minister Ariel Sharon with a 49.6 popularity rating, while Begin himself had only 45.1. And the reports of maneuvers in the Herut ranks, with Finance Minister Yoram Aridor and Deputy Premier David Levy jostling up with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir against Sharon in the succession stakes.

Aridor, who has always been seen as a cautious man, seemed very sensitive to his boss' feelings. He went so far as to get word to the hospital that "I have absolutely no ambitions for the top position in Herut. All I desire to be is finance minister."

BEGIN'S BOMBHELL caught everyone by surprise. Perhaps the pundits should resort to stargazing to predict the premier's next move. And they might pay special attention to astrologer Herzl Lipschitz, who wrote the following in the December issue of a student magazine: "Begin will find himself in a positive situation regarding... a political adventure, involving some risk... The month of December will witness a process of change in the prime minister's political concept, but he must beware of hidden enemies and take care of his health because of the high level of tension he must cope with."

ANOTHER SURPRISE was the presence of Aharon Abuhatzela at the cabinet session on the Golan Law, despite Begin's announcement that the minister would suspend his participation in government sessions during the course of his trial on embezzlement charges. The minister, who holds the Labour and



Zubin Mehta

Social Affairs and the Absorption portfolios, has not, however, been able to attend the first three sessions of the Knesset debate on aliyah.

THERE MAY BE trouble in store for two coalition members who resisted this week's steamroller. One is Yitzhak Berman, the energy minister, the only cabinet member to speak out against the Golan move. The other is National Religious Party MK Avraham Melamed. Asked whether his failure

to vote for the measure might cause the government's fall, the NRP dove replied: "Not at all. I knew I could always rely on Labour to keep the government from falling."

QUOTABLE QUOTES. Yitzhak Ben-Ner referred to last week's murder of Rav-Kalai Roni Nizkan and the Golan Law in the same sentence on his Galei Zahal morning radio programme. He said: "It is high time we extended Israeli law throughout Israel."

WHILE THE CAT'S AWAY. Begin has said that the passing of the Golan Law was a matter of "timing." One cynic wondered whether the premier was not referring to more than the fact that Polish Premier Wojciech Jaruzelski had declared martial law, and that the Americans were preoccupied with the report of a Muammar Gaddafi "hit squad" in the U.S. which had its sights set on President Ronald Reagan. Another reason that Begin might be that Shimon Peres was in Washington and Yitzhak Rabin was in London.

Peres has been telling friends recently that the national unity government idea is still alive. It might be said that eight Labour MKs — Danny Rosolio, Ya'acov Tzur, Ra'anan Naim, Tamar Eshel, Shlomo Hillel, Jacques Amik, Avraham Katz, Oz and Shoshana Arbell-Almozlino, all of whom broke party discipline to vote for the Golan Law — didn't wait for official word to join the Begin coalition.

MENTION OF BULLDOZERS naturally leads us to the subject of Arik Sharon. The Defence Ministry turmoil over the Arie Genger appointment makes me recall a comment about Sharon made by the late Moshe Dayan, in an aside during one of our 1980 interviews at his Zahala home. Dayan told me that Sharon might make a reasonable defence minister, if there was a strong premier to control him...

IT MIGHT be said that the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra fiddled while the Knesset burned last week. The occasion was the gala celebration of the orchestra's 45th anniversary, with maestro Zubin Mehta flying in from Austria to conduct.

After the Mann Auditorium concert, there was an anniversary ball at the Tel Aviv Hilton. Among the guests munching the strudel of Viennese chef Henryk Wittman were Sir Isaac Wolfson, basketball star Akele Perry, who towered over the guests, and top model Tami Ben-Ami. Cellist Yo Yo Ma couldn't get to the food until Eather Rubin came to the rescue. And Mrs. Ziva Lahat, the mayor's wife, attracted photographers with her bouncing bosse nova, danced with Mehta.

EARLIER in the week, Australian Ambassador David Goss was host at an after-theatre reception for the local premiere of Marvin Rutherford's *Departmental*. The Australian play, produced by Shmuel Atzmon, opened at the Zavia theatre club in Tel Aviv.

The Weekend Dry Bones

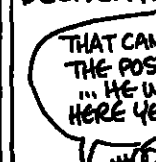


ENVELOPE FLAP GLUE ON THE FLAPS OF ENVELOPES.

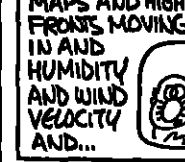


THIS CLEVER SYSTEM PUTS ENOUGH GLUE ON THE FLAP TO ACTUALLY SEAL THE LETTER

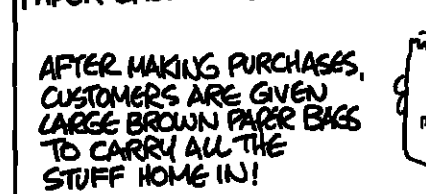
DAILY MAIL DELIVERY.



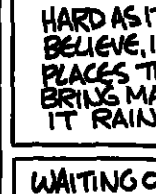
TV WEATHER REPORT WITH MAPS AND HIGH FRONTS MOVING IN AND HUMIDITY AND WIND VELOCITY AND...



PAPER BAGS IN SUPERMARKETS.



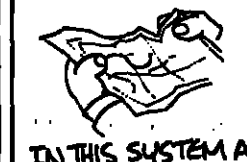
HARD AS IT IS TO BELIEVE, IN SOME PLACES THEY EVEN BRING MAIL WHEN IT RAINS!!



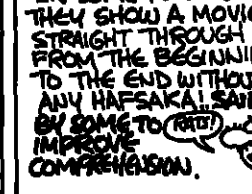
LAST NAMES FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS...



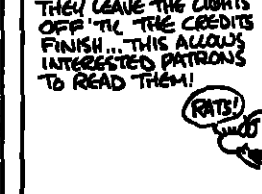
BUS ROUTE MAPS.



NON-STOP MOVIES



FILM CREDITS



Glossary: Hafsaka — Interval

Centre for Jewish living and values

By JUDY SEIGEL/Jerusalem Post Reporter

A kibbutz of the leftist Hashomer Hatzair movement, near Hadera, is so excited about the idea of the Centre for Jewish Living and Values that it has agreed to cancel its previous plans in order to accommodate the students this summer, and to kasher its kitchen and dining room.

The irony is that only a few of the young people expected to take part in the four-week intensive retreat observe *Kashrut* at home. "But," explains the centre's president and executive director, Robert Bleiweis, "even if only one of the 80 participants wants kosher food, we want him to get it."

The centre, which has just been established, is modelled after the successful Brandeis-Bardin Institute outside Los Angeles. After 43 years of teaching uncommitted Jews why they should be Jewish, Without pushing any particular brand of Judaism, its administrators decided to branch out into Israel.

"There was quite a bit of reluctance among board members of the institute to operate in Israel," explains Bleiweis, who until last May was its executive vice president. "They felt that American Jews in

the U.S. itself should be our prime target."

But Bleiweis and Dennis Prager, a young New York-born observant but not Orthodox Jew who is the institute's director, were both enthusiastic about the idea. The centre, which will operate from June 27 through July 25, 1982, is located at Kibbutz Givat Haviva, in the Sharon Valley. THE KIBBUTZ is providing 110 beds — 80 for students aged 18 and over from Israel and abroad, and the rest for staff — at below standard fee.

The teachers will be an unusual combination of believers. Among the visiting scholars are Prof. Emil Fackenheim, Prof. Arthur Hertzberg, Dr. Elad Peled, Rabbi Shlomo Riskin (Orthodox), Rabbi Eli Schochet (Conservative) and Rabbi Harvey Tattiebbaum (Reform). The women's views of Judaism will be offered by Pinna Peli, wife of Prof. Pinhas Peli, dean of faculty at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. There will also be artists and musicians in residence.

Although the World Zionist Organization has been consulted on

the centre's plans, the summer project is completely independent — even of the Brandeis-Bardin Institute itself. Bleiweis has raised half of the \$200,000 he needs to run the summer programme with help from American Jewish donors. (The centre's American Friends group is located at 4391 Park Milano, Calabasas, California). The funds will provide scholarships to help deserving students pay the \$950 fee. The Diaspora participants will get a discount on their plane fare.

The centre programme is unique, says Bleiweis, "because of the tremendous emphasis on Judaic content, on Jewish life considered through a broad range of contemporary Jewish thinking."

Bleiweis is looking for a permanent site for the centre, as an alternative to the rented kibbutz facilities. When people hear that the programme is at a Hashomer Hatzair kibbutz, he explains, they immediately label it with a certain ideology.

He also expects that the centre will operate year-round, for Israelis as well as Diaspora Jews, offering Shabbat programmes for adults and seminars for young people.

DIPLOMACY

State papers tell of Cairo peace feelers that failed

By BENNY MORRIS
Jerusalem Post Reporter



King Farouk of Egypt.

Egyptian King Farouk's peace-feelers towards the newborn State of Israel came to nought when the IDF launched operation Yoav on October 14, 1948, according to the second volume of State Papers published by the State Archives last week.

The 710-page volume, entitled *Israel Documents, May-September 1948*, contains a selection of 558 important diplomatic and political letters, memoranda and cables by Israeli and Diaspora leaders and diplomats. The material relates to the political, military and diplomatic aftermath of the establishment of the state, to early Israeli-American and Israeli-European relations, and to contacts between the emergent state and its Arab neighbours.

Writing from Paris on September 23, 1948 to the foreign ministry, Eliahu Sasson, head of the ministry's Middle East department, described a meeting he held with an emissary of King Farouk on September 21 in a Paris hotel. The emissary, whose name is excised from the published volume, had been empowered by the Egyptian court, after an hour-long meeting with Farouk and a second meeting with Hassan Yusuf, deputy chief chamberlain of the Egyptian court, to sound out Israel's "proposals for peace" — with the Arab world collectively...and with Egypt separately...and find out what "guarantees" Israel would provide regarding "non-expansion" at the expense of neighbouring Arab states and "nonidentification" with "the Communists, something (sic) which the King fears greatly."

The Egyptian peace initiative, according to Sasson, was a product of "basic contradictions" between "the outlooks and ambitions of the Transjordanians and the Egyptians, which proved to the King (Farouk), that Egyptian interests require Egypt to adopt a separate foreign policy, outside the framework of the Arab League."

According to Sasson, the Egyptian delegation to the UN was not privy to the king's peace initiative.

The emissary also told Sasson that the Egyptians and British were holding talks in which the British were trying to obtain Egyptian agreement to the incorporation of the Negev in Transjordan. According to the emissary, it was "British mendacity" which had sparked the war against Israel by the Arabs, "who would never have launched the war...without the (British) encouragement and promises."

The emissary, according to Sasson, explained that if the "Hashemite bloc" (Iraq and Transjordan), "incorporate the Arab part of the Land of Israel plus the Negev, (they) will be in a position to threaten Egyptian independence." The emissary further said that Egypt, Syria and Lebanon were as a result "firm about the need to establish a Palestinian Arab state in the area allocated for it by the UN resolution of November 1947."

According to Sasson, the Egyptians ended their meeting by stressing "that the hour was ripe for a...separate agreement with Egypt."

The Egyptian, according to Sasson, proposed that Israel submit

Washington, saying: "Our 10 Messerschmitt(s) acquired in Europe cannot reach Palestine for lack of intermediate station...Meanwhile, Tel Aviv being bombed seventh (sic) time per day, and this evening night attacks have started...Please urge State Department advise Greece to allow us land, refuel, Greek mainland and Rhodes. Matter desperately urgent."

In a second telegram to Elath on May 22, Sharett wrote: "Please ask State Department for immediate reply regarding release fighter-bomber aircraft and anti-aircraft, anti-tank artillery, yes or no...Also apply immediately Soviet embassy for transmission request Moscow similar assistance." Sharett wrote that there was a danger, because of continuing air-raids on Tel Aviv, of a "deterioration" in morale and the situation. But he cautioned: "Don't plead with (the) State Department, only ask, but stress we (are) determined to obtain these weapons as it is a matter of life and death." The threat that the Jewish State would turn to and rely upon the Soviet Union rather than the U.S. for its arms was clear.

The documents also provide parallel with contemporary Israel regarding "our policy towards... Arabs...within the State of Israel and in territories occupied by us (*shetahim muh'zakim*)," in the words of Sharett to Bechor Shitrit, then minister in charge of minorities' affairs. Sharett wrote on August 8, 1948 that Israel must allow some Arabs to participate in institutions established by Israel.

"In making arrangements for Arab internal administration in conquered territories (*shetahim nichbashim*), reliance should be placed primarily on persons who have cooperated (*shifu pe'ula*) with the Jews in the past, with the exception of persons reputed to have acted as paid agents."

Sharett added that Israel must strive to reach an understanding with Arabs previously opposed to cooperate on the basis of recognition of the State of Israel or with a view to the establishment of independent Arab rule in the Arab part of Palestine.

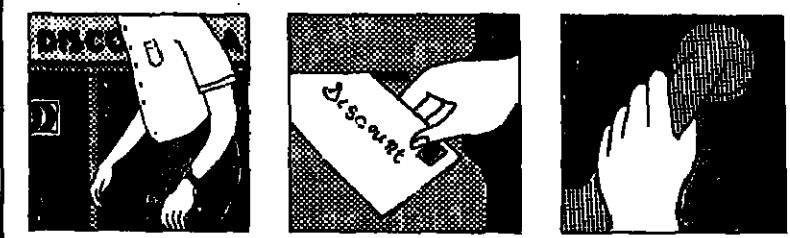
"Although the annexation of the Arab part of Palestine by Transjordan cannot be ruled out," Sharett went on, "the establishment of an independent Arab state is preferable."

At a press conference in Jerusalem last week to launch the new volume, Gedalia Yosef, editor of the State Papers series, said that a volume on the cease-fire negotiations with the various Arab countries is on the verge of completion.

He said that "99 per cent" of the Foreign Ministry archive material inspected for the period has been opened to the public, as has "99.8 per cent" of the "interesting material for the period."

The Foreign Ministry has the right to object to the publication of material which it deems harmful to the State or its interests. Yosef said that his "personal assessment" was that the U.S. State Department has proportionately "classified" far more documents than Israel's State Archives.

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JEWISH AFFAIRS

ON A MONDAY in November, the prestigious American weekly *The Nation* carried an article by Gore Vidal titled "Some Jews and Gays," in which the celebrated liberal writer accused a number of Jewish intellectuals of "fag baiting." Implying that prominent Jews down the ages, from Moses to Freud, are responsible for the sexual repression that exists in Western society, he wrote of "aberrant figures whose nomadic values are not those of thousands of other tribes who live or have lived on this planet." He concluded: "Women's and gay liberation are simply small efforts to free men and women from those Jews."

That same day, during a heated debate in the Senate about voluntary prayers in public schools, the conservative Democratic senator from South Carolina, Ernest Hollings, referred angrily to the Democratic Jewish senator from Ohio, Howard Metzenbaum, as "the senator from B'nai B'rith."

Two days later, the two synagogues in Fair Lawn, a small and calm middle-class community in New Jersey, were desecrated. Swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans were spray-painted on both. Vandals also daubed anti-Semitic epithets and swastikas on the local Jewish cemetery and on the door of the high school. Police sources revealed that a six-member cell of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), which apparently had been meeting secretly in a local apartment complex, had been uncovered.

OBVIOUSLY there is little common political and cultural ground between Vidal, the super-liberal from New York; Hollings, the arch-conservative from the South; and the KKK in Fair Lawn, N.J. However, when Don McEvoy, the senior vice-president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, addressed a group of Jewish friends one evening that same week, he found that in their minds there is a certain familiar and dangerous ring about these unrelated events.

The group this liberal Protestant, who has devoted his life to combating anti-Semitism, spoke to in an apartment on Central Park West was not a representative sample of the American-Jewish community. They were Jews who had reached the highest echelons of American cultural and business life, some married to non-Jewish partners. But when he suggested to them that "anti-Semitic feeling is not on the rise in America," he found the reaction was more than sceptical.

"It is perhaps difficult for you as a non-Jew to understand this," Letty Pogrebin, one of the editors of *Ms.* magazine, told him, "but we Jews have developed as a result of our historical experience certain senses that help us to detect anti-Semitism. And we do feel that anti-Semitism is on the rise and that Jews are beginning to question whether their economic and political position is safe here."

One speaker at that meeting suggested that perhaps Jews should start looking for a new shelter. Another suggested holding a big demonstration in Washington, a kind of "solidarity day" against anti-Semitism.

A number of those present admitted that they had been "scared" by some of the anti-Semitic remarks made during the AWACS debate. That same matter had been referred to pointedly at a dinner in New York the previous evening of the B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation

Anti-Semitic chill?

Some recent surveys point to a marked decline in anti-Semitism in the U.S. But there are also disturbing indications of a change in climate, The Post's LEON HADAR reports from New York.

League (ADL), at which one of the key speakers was Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. The national director of the ADL, Nathan Perlmutter, in his address, challenged "persons of high responsibility to categorically repudiate the injection of anti-Semitism and its crony, dual loyalty, into the Middle East debate."

WHEN MCEVOY spoke about a decrease in anti-Semitic feeling in America, he had documented statistical evidence on which to base his argument. A national Louis Harris poll done at the request of his organization found that in every category, compared to data developed in earlier studies, there was "clear evidence that old anti-Semitic stereotypes were breaking down and that America is becoming much more accepting of its Jews and other minority groups."

A more recent survey prepared for the American Jewish Committee by the Yankelovich public opinion poll firm concluded that "there has been a significant decline in anti-Semitic beliefs" and that "positive images of Jews are very widespread today in American society compared to 1964" when a similar survey had been conducted.

The Yankelovich survey attributed this change to a generational gap. "In 1964 older adults tended to be highly anti-Semitic," it noted. "Their passing and their replacement by today's young adults has resulted in a lower level of anti-Semitism since young people tend to be relatively unprejudiced."

However, a survey prepared last year by the ADL indicated an increase in assaults on Jews and in vandalism against Jewish institutions, synagogues and cemeteries in 1980.

ANTI-SEMITISM was rampant in America from the 1920s to the early 1940s when prominent spokesmen such as Henry Ford, Father Coughlin, Gerald Winrod and Gerald K. Smith openly and viciously attacked Jews and were supported by millions of Americans. Profs. Harold Quinley and Charles Glock note in their book, *Anti-Semitism in America* that "extreme hatred and loathing of Jews has all but disappeared in America today," and that "attitudes of this kind are sometimes found within political fringe groups but they are rejected overwhelmingly by the public at large."

However, as Dr. Melvin Tumin, a Princeton University sociology professor and a member of the ADL force suggests, "The recent rise of anti-Semitic incidents may be just the tip of an iceberg" which could be an expression of "pervasive and deep-rooted anti-Semitism which had laid dormant for the past 20 or 30 years." He concluded that "for a variety of reasons located in our institutions, foreign policy matters and the nature of the educational system, some of that anti-Semitism is beginning to surface into the open."

Analysts are divided as to the reasons for this re-emergence of anti-Jewish feeling. Liberal com-

mentators tend to argue that the new conservative wave in America, which demonstrated itself in the coming to power of the Reagan administration and the strengthening of right-wing and fundamentalist religious groups, like the Moral Majority, should be held responsible for the latest developments.

"It is my feeling that those of KKK and neo-Nazi mentality believe that they have friends in Washington for the first time in a quarter of a century who will silently applaud their activities," said McEvoy.

"They view the dismantling of the social programmes designed to help the poor, the attempts to cut back on legal services, the change of signals on school desegregation, easing enforcement of affirmative action programmes, waffling on voting rights and upsetting the delicate balance of power in the



Moses...among the culprits.

Middle East — they view all these as signs that it is all right to openly hate Jews."

According to Lily Rivlin, a New York journalist and filmmaker, four "variables" combine together today under the Reagan administration — as they did at other times in history — which might result in a more violent expression of anti-Semitism. "The pattern is very clear — an economic recession coupled with an increase in the number of frustrated members of the unemployed, unskilled labour class who are unable to fulfill their economic expectations when the pie is not growing any more," she said. "At the same time, the society's myth — the American dream — is falling apart when young couples cannot afford to buy a home, and Christianity — the main source of anti-Semitism — is becoming more fundamentalist."

Rivlin calls for the establishment of a new alliance between Jews, blacks and other minorities to combat these old-new and dangerous trends.

IRONICALLY, some of the heads of the fundamentalist groups also consider themselves friends of Israel. Thus, the Rev. Dan Fore, chairman of the pro-Israeli Moral Majority group in New York, was quoted in *The New York Times* as saying that "Jews have a God-given

ability to make money, almost a supernatural ability to make money... They control the media, they control the city."

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, of the Reform movement in America, sees a direct link between the increasing political power of the fundamentalist groups and the new wave of anti-Semitism. It is no coincidence that "the rise of right-wing fundamentalism has been accompanied by the most serious attack of anti-Semitism in America since World War II," he told members of his movement. "When Rev. Falwell asserts before 30 million listeners that one brand of politics has God's approval, then intolerance takes root."

Other observers believe that a conservative American society which is committed to more traditional values, and which will strengthen law and order, is the kind of society where Jews will find themselves less threatened by anti-Semitism. These observers point to the anti-Zionist tendencies prevailing among leftist groups and the anti-Jewish feeling detected among blacks as greater causes for concern.

THE HARRIS and Yankelovich surveys noted that blacks hold attitudes towards Jews that are considerably less tolerant and sympathetic than is the case with the rest of the non-Jewish public. "Blacks still tend to see most Jews as money greedy, and heavy in their representation in the non-black community..."

More than 67 per cent of black leaders believe that "most of the slumlords are Jewish," while more than 81 per cent feel that "Jews will choose money over people."

The anti-Jewish and anti-Israeli utterances of black intellectuals like Jesse Jackson and James Baldwin have obviously done their work.

ANTI-ZIONIST tendencies prevail also among some members of the left-oriented National Council of Churches (NCC), which at the same time has been an ally of the American-Jewish community in its fight against prejudice in America. This fact suggests, according to Nathan Perlmutter of the ADL, that American Jews should try to get rid of their misconception about what constitutes a threat to their interests and values.

He distinguishes between what he calls "anti-Semitism by the old standard" and "anti-Jewish interest patterns," the latter being in some ways the more dangerous.

"The surveys which monitor anti-Semitism report about whether non-Jews are willing to marry and live next to Jews or about anti-Semitic incidents against synagogues and Jewish cemeteries," he notes.

"More threatening on the domestic side is the attempt to impose a quota system and on the international side the degree to which Western governments, including the American, show signs of being willing to surrender to the Arab oil empire and to PLO terrorism."

Thus the new "military-industrial

complex" — the big business community with strong interests in Saudi Arabia, which is trying to move American foreign policy in a pro-PLO direction — is more of a threat than KKK demonstrations and the anti-Zionist propaganda coming from the UN and should worry Jews more than teenage vandalism in a Jewish cemetery. In the same way, Perlmutter argues, the pro-PLO orientation of the NCC is more threatening than the theological views of the Moral Majority. As a matter of fact the pro-Israeli positions of the latter make it a useful asset in the more important campaign American Jews should be engaged in — preventing the administration from drifting into a pro-PLO position.

ALTHOUGH some marginal and extreme groups such as the KKK and the neo-Nazis and the two most vocal anti-Semitic groups — the right-wing "liberty lobby" and the left-wing U.S. Labour Party — have been gaining more publicity recently and have developed close relations with Arab groups and states, they still do not pose any immediate threat to American Jews. What worries the latter more are certain tendencies among important segments of the general public to a less sympathetic attitude towards Jewish "problems" and a more critical view of the political and economic power of Jews in America.

These concerns were confirmed by the Harris poll, which suggested that the percentage of non-Jews "expressing a rather deep empathy for the problems Jews have faced for many years and their struggle to overcome prejudice and discrimination has begun to slip appreciably... Far more non-Jews now tend to think that Jews have made it and therefore do not really require allies in the non-Jewish community to fight anti-Semitism when it might appear."

The most serious implication of the finding, the Harris survey concludes, is that "in the event of overt or subtle forms of anti-Semitism, it is now far less likely that non-Jews would rally to the defence of Jews than was the case just a few years ago."

The Yankelovich poll pointed to the fact that "Along with a significant decline in anti-Semitism, the belief in the perceived power of Jews (in politics and business) and the perceived loyalty of Jews to Israel has become somehow more widespread."

The survey indicated that more Americans today believe that Jews are more loyal to Israel than to the U.S. These perceptions, coupled with an increasing belief that Israel's policy is not consistent with that of the U.S., might result — as it did during the AWACS debate — in an anti-Jewish backlash, especially when official figures encourage this kind of anti-Jewish campaign.

But Rabbi James Rudin, assistant national inter-religious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, argues that major waves of anti-Semitism have been expected in the past but did not happen. He points for example to the period of the Yom Kippur War, when the Arabs imposed an oil embargo, and adds: "By and large American Jews still believe in the strength and tolerance of the American political and economic system. They believe they still have the resources, the opportunities and the support of the general public to fight against rising anti-Semitism or for the support of their interests."

THE ARTS

Marathon of the voice

FOR THE FOURTH year running, Israel Radio's Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra is organizing a festival of religiously-inspired vocal music. Between December 27 and January 3, Liturgica 1981 will present nine major events in which four conductors, 12 soloists and 350 chorists will participate.

The outstanding works to be performed include Handel's oratorio, "Israel in Egypt," with John Currie conducting, six singers and the Scottish National and Edinburgh Festival Chorus (December 27, Jerusalem Theatre); William Walton's oratorio, "Belshazzar's Feast," conducted by Gary Bertini (December 29, at the Theatre); Beethoven's "Missa Solemnis" with Moshe Altmann conducting (December 31, at the Theatre); and, as the grand finale, Berlioz' "Grande Messe des Morts," directed by Gary Bertini (January 3, at Binyanei Ha'umim).

The other components of the festival are:

Organ recital by John Langdon, with Linda Stachan, mezzo-soprano, and an A-Capella concert, with the John Currie Singers (December 28 and 30 respectively, at the Lutheran Church, Old City).

Music of different Jewish ethnic groups in Israel, presented by Avi

MUSIC & MUSICIANS

Yohanan Boehm



A violin recital by Henryk Szeryng

Amzalg, and including ensembles of Yemenites, Iraqis, Jerusalem Sephardim and Moroccans (December 28, at the Van Leer Institute, 5 p.m.).

Violin Recital by Henryk Szeryng, with Ruth Mense at the piano. Works by Beethoven, Bach, Schubert, Bloch and Gershwin (December 28, at the Theatre).

What's on at the theatre

An occasional column to give an idea of what is going on in the Israel theatre... The list is not complete. The number of performances of plays at particular venues vary.

All programmes are in Hebrew unless otherwise stated.

Jerusalem
THE BALCONY — By Jean Genet. Khan Theatre production, directed by Ya'acov Raz. (Khan, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.)

FOUR LETTERS — Written and directed by Haim Weizmann. With Wendy Kahn. In English. (Tzavta, 30 King George.)

MAN TO MAN — Written and directed by Ronit Hacham. Pargod Theatre production. Explores tensions between Ashkenazim and Sephardim. (Pargod.)

THE TRIALS OF JOB — By Hana Levi. Based on the biblical story, the play tells of a man's journey from faith and hope to despair, and back. Cameri production. (Jerusalem Theatre.)

WOMAN ALONE — Monodrama by Simone de Beauvoir. With Ruth Segal (Neva Ya'acov Community Centre).

TEL AVIV AREA
ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST — By Italian writer, Dario Fo. About the murder by the police of Giuseppe Pinelli, an anarchist arrested on suspicion of performing an act of terror but cleared of guilt posthumously. Habimah production. (Kfar Sava, Sunday through Wednesday.)

BATTERED WOMEN — Presented by the Theatre Group. Directed by Nola Chilton. Movement by Daniela Michaeli (Or Yehuda, Sunday.)

BEDROOM FARCE — Comedy by Allan Ayckbourn, produced by the Cameri Theatre. (Cameri, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday.)

CARLOS — Monodrama on the life of a terrorist. Written and directed by Ran Edlit. (Jaffa, Haifa.)

CATASTROPHE X-3 — Musical comedy by Anne Saver. (Bziza Cafe-Theatre.)

EVENING WITH CIPE LINKOVSKY — Selections from Brecht, Ibsen, Manger and others. In Spanish and Yiddish. (Tel Aviv Museum, Wednesday.)

FILUMENA — Comedy by Eduardo de Filippo about a former inmate of a bordello who becomes a good wife and mother. Habimah production. (Habimah Large Hall.)

A NIGHT IN MAY — (Municipal Theatre, Haifa.)

THE ORATION — By Haim Hazaz. Directed and performed by Michael Kfir. A young halutz delivers an oration to a group of comrades in which he castigates the Jewish people for having wallowed in their suffering for 2,000 years. Haifa Theatre production (Municipal Theatre.)

GIRLFRIENDS — Directed by Ruth Hazan. (Tzavta.)

LES MARIES DE LA TOUR EIFFEL — By Jean Cocteau. Play with puppets and actors. (Tel Aviv, Sun.)

THE LESSON — By Eugene Ionesco. Directed by Tami Lederer. (Haifa.)

LITTLE INVASIONS — Tragi-comedy based on the works by Vladimir Mayakovsky and Nikolai Gorky. Translated and adapted by Niki Nita. (Tzavta.)

MARIA STUART — By Friedrich Schiller. Habimah production. (Habimah, Large Hall.)

MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN — Comedy with Rikva Michaeli and Gad Yagil. (Holon.)

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR — By Shakespeare. Cameri production. (Cameri.)

A NIGHT IN MAY — By A.B. Yehoshua. Haifa Theatre production. (Habimah, Small Hall.)

SELECTIONS FROM THE ACRE FESTIVAL — (Neva Zedek Theatre Centre, 6 Yehieli, Kokonar, Knesset, and Women of the Earth (Monday from 8.30 p.m.); Adam-Big Puppet, Paulo Ariel, and The Parasite (Tuesday from 8.30 p.m.); The Parasite, The Red Bird, and Women of the Earth (Wednesday from 8.30 p.m.).

SOLOMON GRIP — The Cameri's revival of Hana Levi's comedy, first performed 12 years ago. (Tzavta, Wednesday and Thursday.)

UNTO DEATH — By Amos Oz. Adapted and directed by David Ma'ayan. (Neva Zedek.)

THE WORKSHOP — Jean Claude Grunberg's play about Holocaust survivors resident in Paris who try to reconstruct their lives after the trauma of the camps. (Habimah, Small Hall.)

Halfa
ATTRITION — Comedy by Benny Hador about War of Attrition in an Israeli stronghold by the Suez Canal. Haifa Theatre production. (Municipal Theatre.)

THE GRAND PRIZE — By Shalom Aleichem. Directed by Omri Nitzan. (Municipal Theatre.)

A NIGHT IN MAY — (Municipal Theatre, Haifa.)

THE ORATION — By Haim Hazaz. Directed and performed by Michael Kfir. A young halutz delivers an oration to a group of comrades in which he castigates the Jewish people for having wallowed in their suffering for 2,000 years. Haifa Theatre production (Municipal Theatre.)

The John Currie Singers with a chamber orchestra conducted by Avi Ostrovsky. Music by De Lalande, Leighton, Braun and Bach (January 2, at the Theatre).

It looks like a Scottish invasion, as the only Israeli artists are Gila Yaron, soprano, and Mira Zakai, alto, and even the three Israeli conductors spend most of the year conducting abroad.

The only Israeli composition will be Mordechai Seter's "Jerusalem."

The week, coinciding with Hanukkah and the Christmas season, will be quite a marathon for those who want to avail themselves of the rare opportunity to hear so many great works and listen to such a galaxy of artists and choirs.

THE LEAGUE of Composers in Israel has launched a campaign to bring Israeli compositions to the knowledge of the public at large, charging that the established musical institutions don't do enough in this field. "Three Plus One" is a series of events to be held at the Sha'ar Zion Library at Beit Ariela in Tel Aviv to present new Israeli compositions and the general repertoire of the 20th century. After the three programmes, the "Plus One" will be a contest for the Liberzon Prize.

Curtain for aging actors

By BENNY MORRIS
Jerusalem Post Reporter

An Arts Council committee has recommended that actors working in state and municipal theatres no longer receive tenure.

Acknowledging that this recommendation does not conform to the normal working conditions in most public sectors, the committee asserted: "The fields of theatre and art do not resemble other fields of employment, and their nature and essence justify and indeed compel our recommendations."

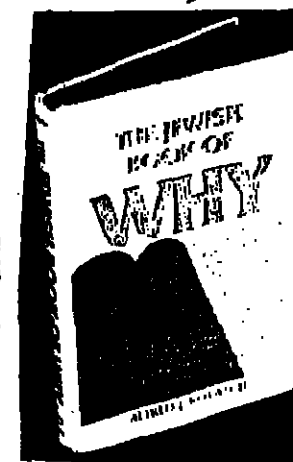
A source at the Education Ministry explained on Monday that the theatre has always been plagued by the problem of aging actors with tenure who receive full wages but do little work, and aspiring young actors who have no chance of receiving tenure or permanent work.

The "Yekutieli" committee has recommended that henceforward the theatres sign one-time contracts with each actor taken on, either for a single play or for a number of seasons, while making special arrangements to assure actors better social conditions.

The ministry spokesman suggested that these benefits — pension rights, in-service training and so on — be handled by a new special fund or by the National Insurance Institute, which would also assure the actors' wages during periods of unemployment or between plays.

These recommendations were endorsed by all the committee members, save Yossi Sarid, who said he has not been convinced that "tenure harms artistic creativity" or that temporary status encourages it. According to the ministry spokesman, officials of the theatre section of the Arts Council agree with most of the committee's recommendations, but have stressed the need to ensure the actors' social benefits.

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We appeal to all our generous hearted brethren to come to the assistance of a large family which now finds itself in the direst of straits. May the Almighty show His mercies to all the family and, in particular to the father who has now taken ill and has become hospitalized. Merciful fellow Jews, we appeal to you to take pity on this family and do all in our power to succor them, and thereby fulfill the commandment of "And thou shalt support him" and of the mitzva to "Love thy neighbour as thyself." All who fulfill this mitzva will be protected from evil and will see only good all their days. Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, Rabbi Boazal Zolti, Rabbi Yehoshua Neuwirt, 10 Rehov Be'Yamun Bayit V'Yagan, Jerusalem. Rabbi Yehoshua Bezael Hachanan Kaplan, 5 Rehov Panim Me'orot Jerusalem. Rabbi Shmuel Yitzhak Stern, 25 Rehov Amos Jerusalem. Contributions may also be deposited at the Discount Bank Mahane Yehuda branch, Jerusalem account no. 412198, or forwarded to P.O.B. 6829 Jerusalem.

P.S. Other recommendations are in the possession of the chairman. Please send contributions to Rabbi Yehoshua Neuwirt, 10 Rehov Be'Yamun Bayit V'Yagan, Jerusalem. Rabbi Yehoshua Bezael Hachanan Kaplan, 5 Rehov Panim Me'orot Jerusalem. Rabbi Shmuel Yitzhak Stern, 25 Rehov Amos Jerusalem. Contributions may also be deposited at the Discount Bank Mahane Yehuda branch, Jerusalem account no. 412198, or forwarded to P.O.B. 6829 Jerusalem.

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wish them a continued long life of joy, peace, health, and happiness.

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Clal (Israel) was started almost 20 years ago at the prompting of the late Pinhas Sapir, who wanted an agency for channelling Jewish investments from Latin America. His son Amos Sapir heads the finance department today.

Spanish-speaking Aharon Dovrat was appointed Clal's managing director. A new immigrant from Argentina, he had risen rapidly in the government service, ending up as chief of the industries division in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as it was then called. Pinhas Sapir headed the ministry.

Dovrat still directs the company he launched. His office is situated on the 21st floor of the towering Clal building near Dizengoff Circle in Tel Aviv. The venture is now a vast conglomerate, whose connection with Latin America is only marginal. It is split into four divisions — industries, construction, trade, and general — each with between 20 and 50 subsidiaries (a fifth division has been added to handle electronic industries).

A picture of Sapir graces the shelf behind Dovrat's desk. The pace of industrial growth in Israel is not what it was, he admits that. One of the reasons is — he makes a gesture towards the photo — there is nobody pushing today as Sapir used to push.

The minister used to beseech, cajole, entice, bully people into investing. If he wanted a textile mill to provide employment in Dimona, he got a textile mill in Dimona, the business community dared not refuse.

"Since Sapir went," Dovrat observes with regret, "my phone has not rung even once with a call from a minister pressing me to do something."

IF ANYTHING, the pressures have lately been the other way — to desist from doing things. "Some years ago we decided to build a new cement factory, Israel's fourth. Not all our board members were equally keen, it meant locking up capital for four or five years till the plant was operational."

"Suddenly I get a call from Yiguel Hurvitz, who was finance minister at the time. I was sure he would be asking me whether the plant was up yet. Not a bit of it, he wanted me to postpone the project."

The government is preoccupied first and foremost with the battle against inflation, so it wants less spending, not more, even in the field of investment. Inflation creates its own antibodies. Foreign investors are scared off by the soaring price-index. Local business circles have an easy alternative. The government sells linked bonds which are inflation-proof, so why take risks?

"You have to be crazy to invest in labour and machinery, your money will earn its keep without your having to lift a finger. Just loan it to the Accountant-General."

Nevertheless, Clal is active and go-ahead, seeking business. It must do that, according to Dovrat's philosophy, otherwise it would be a dead duck. He lists new projects this year. "We have bought into the Hadera Paper Mills, supplying them with capital for expansion. We are putting up a frozen-pastry plant in Ashdod jointly with Elie and Osem. We have created a company for the export of agricultural machinery to Latin America."

"Our building firm, Azorim, has purchased land in the Lamed Zone of North Tel Aviv to construct 900 flats. Six or seven of our daughter companies have gone public."

A giant moving with the times

Economic Correspondent David Krivine tells the story of Clal, an investment conglomerate with interests in industry, construction and trade, and a turnover last year of IS1,725m. This is the first in a series of articles on investment groups in Israel.



Aharon Dovrat...still directing the company he launched nearly 20 years ago.

The late Pinhas Sapir...a finance minister who beseeched and cajoled.

Clal is not just a passive shareholder. It does not content itself with a minority stake and a seat on the board. In most of its investments it holds a controlling interest, and takes an active part in day-to-day management. A Clal official points out: "In the big subsidiaries we have several board members, but there is always one who sits on that board only, concentrating entirely on its affairs."

Company treasurers take no decision without consulting with the relevant department in Clal. "We have a 'control man' in every company at management level too," the official remarked.

TO OFFSET this central control, Dovrat decentralizes the chain of responsibility. It is a policy which evidently causes him considerable pride. Each company operates as an independent entity, "working with whatever bank it wants, whatever insurance company it wants." The supervision is technical, to make sure that every unit follows its own interests efficiently. That is why control is exercised low down the line, at departmental level.

Why does his group have so very many subsidiary companies (close to two-hundred, as listed in the Annual Report for 1980)? Many were existing entities in which Clal bought shares. Some are partnerships still, or else the partners sold out in the course of time and Clal became sole owner.

A good number were groomed to go public, providing the mother company with a new set of partners. A few petered out, but the framework and nomenclature are retained for possible future use.

Though operating like independent undertakings, these associated and daughter companies derive important advantages from their

membership of the Clal family. Their credit-rating is improved, they have a tremendous financial backing.

This enables them to make tough decisions that would break a lone going firm. An example is the strike in Urdan Industries earlier this year. Urdan is a big heavy engineering concern which makes, among other things, important components for the Merkava tank.

Its workers struck for higher pay, in breach of their collective agreement. Clal possesses 70 per cent control, the other 30 per cent is owned by the public. Urdan decided, with Clal's support, that it would not yield. "We had no intention of becoming another El Al," a man in Clal observes.

It was a costly decision. Urdan's contracts with the Defence Ministry were index-linked, except where stoppage was due to extraneous considerations — like a strike. Losses consequently rose to tens of millions of shekels, which would have forced a surrender under normal circumstances.

But belonging to Clal is not a normal circumstance. Management sent the strike out for three whole months, until the workers came to heel. They received no wage rise, not even strike pay. Industrial peace reigns elsewhere in the Clal empire. It is not surprising.

THE FINANCIAL power that Clal possesses works sometimes to the staff's advantage. Two loss-making factories were kept going for a considerable time at the behest of the authorities, to avoid unemployment. One is Rom-Carmel, maker of the ill-fated Sussita car (Clal took it over from the late Yitzhak Shubinsky at Sapir's request).

The other is the Kitan textile plant in Beit Shean. It exported bed

linen to West Germany successfully until the Deutschmark tumbled (in dollar terms) by 35 per cent this year, turning profit into loss. "We are closing the spinning-mill only, its operation is uneconomic," it was told.

"We kept it going as long as we could. In order to continue we would need a big investment that is simply not justified." Rom-Carmel has had its time and is closing down as well.

Clal may have a lot of staying-power, but it is a business firm, its aim is to make gains, not losses. Dovrat sees that this point is clear in the mind of all his subordinates.

Business in fact imposes relentlessly its own conditions, hard times necessitate hard choices. Clal has not only thrown a couple of money-losing factories in a development area to the dogs, changing circumstances force a more drastic retreat. Undergoing modification is Aharon Dovrat's own cherished maxim of optimal decentralization.

IT WAS DIFFERENT in boom times, when every venture could be given its head. Today the world is afflicted by a climate of recession, felt in Israel too. Competition is getting tougher in sluggish markets.

Says a company spokesman: "Decentralization can be carried too far. We had got to the position three or four years ago that ingenious intermediaries were borrowing money from one of our companies and lending it to another, making a rake-off on the deal. This is what happens when sister firms don't speak to one another."

The Clal group manufactures computers, and those who do the manufacturing get cross if another Clal company buys a machine without giving them a chance to bid. The in-house pressures against open competition are tough. Yehezkel (Hezy) Sheluh, deputy-general manager, is in charge of regulating this traditional freedom of choice and preventing it from getting out of hand.

How can profits increase so much faster than turnover? Because a smaller proportion of investment is going into industrial growth and a larger proportion into the capital market. Lending money is more profitable nowadays than building factories. The government has created that situation. With the best will in the world, the business community cannot refrain from going where it is led.

The big borrower is the Treasury. Yitzhak Schreim, assistant manager in charge of Clal's operations in the capital market, points out that deficit budgeting destroys economic growth. Capital expenditure in Israel is going into the creation not of goods but of services. Everybody is buying government bonds, even business firms. The government uses the money to finance defence, education, social welfare, the public administration. Correspondingly less is left for industry, agriculture, tourism, exports.

The government should cut its budget deficit and reduce its borrowing. It could then lower the interest rate it pays on bonds and savings accounts, releasing more capital for placement in economic growth. "At present the national economy is in a state of zero growth," Dovrat states. But have not Israel's exports doubled in the last four years? That is due to investments made in the past.

Yitzhak Schreim makes a pregnant observation in conclusion: "If Israel wanted to maintain the same rate of export expansion in the coming four years, it would have to increase its present rate of investment in export industries fivefold or more." Unless that is done, prospects for the near future will, despite the laudable efforts of companies like Clal, look bleak.

"Twenty years from now daily newspapers won't be needed, the material currently purveyed by your *Jerusalem Post* will come to the recipient through terminals beaming onto his TV screen. He will be able to choose what subjects he wants to hear about. This spells a revolution, and I want Clal to be in on it."

Another example? "We plan to extend Clal's operations overseas. Our construction companies build in Israel, they can build in Canada too. Our electronic firms can set up

daughter companies in places like Argentina. We have a container terminal in Ashdod, we should have one on the other side of the Mediterranean, in Trieste. We have a publishing house in Jerusalem, why not a publishing subsidiary in the United States?"

This country has developed sufficiently to support the emergence of home-grown Israeli multinationals, Dovrat believes; and what company is more qualified for that than Clal?

Such an initiative offers new possibilities of diversification. Clal is enormously diversified already — in the range of its economic activities. "We have to be," says Dovrat. "Because we are big, we cannot put all our eggs in one basket. Israel is subject, more than most countries, to economic ups and downs owing to the shifts in our governments' policies. But not all branches move up and down at the same time or at the same rate. If textiles face bad times, insurance or building may be doing better."

The same applies geographically. "One country's boom is another country's bust. It is good to have varied business interests abroad, especially in territories that provide Israeli goods. This can improve Clal and other would-be multinationals with bigger opportunities, a wider economic base and greater security against the unforeseen."

MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, growth is not happening. Clal's net profits increased threefold in 1980. In real terms (if we discount a 133 per cent inflation) the increase was still a healthy 35 per cent. Turnover more than doubled, from IS710m. to IS1,725m. In real terms the increase was 4 per cent.

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SHA'AR HANEDEV. — A computer turned 500 square metres of curved mirrors toward the afternoon sun last week to inaugurate Israel's first commercial system for the solar production of industrial steam.

At a ceremony at the Tapud food-processing plant here, Energy Minister Yitzhak Berman, commander of the Luz International company for developing the system, and said the parabolic solar collectors would generate 2.5 megawatts of power when fully operating.

If the pilot project proves itself, another 11 large local factories are already in line for the system and \$100m. in exports are projected for the coming four years, primarily to the U.S.

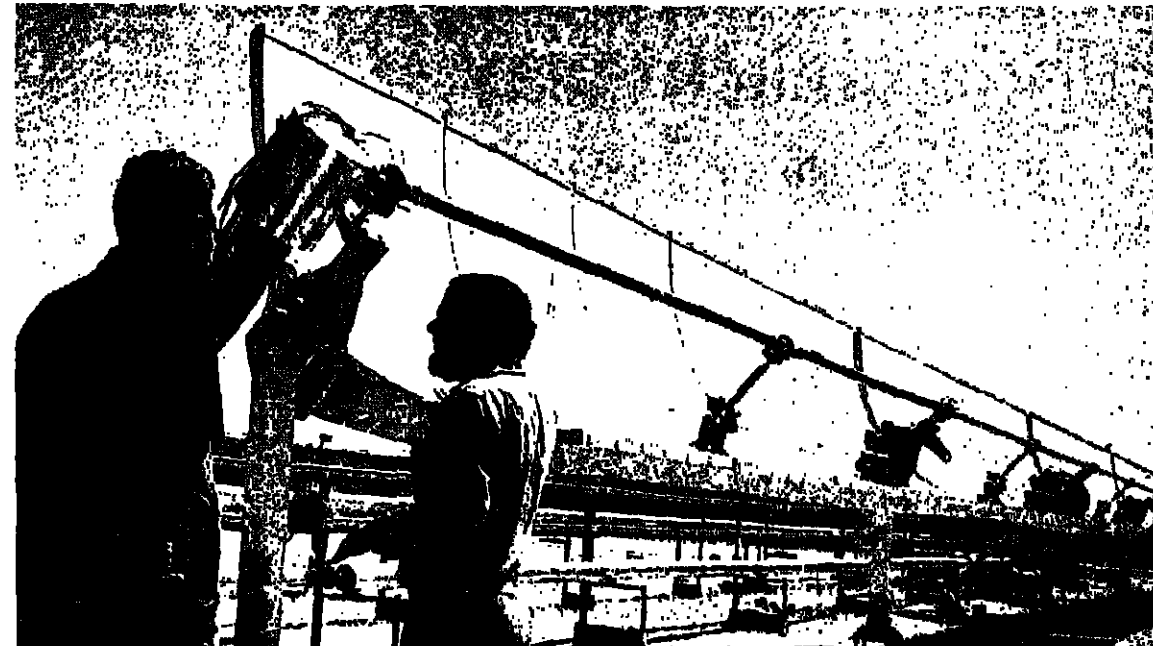
Luz president Arnold Goldman announced that the company intends to spend \$28m. on product enhancement and cost reduction during the next four years, almost all of it in the Jerusalem area.

The Luz System One (LS-1) is based on a modular solar collector assembly, comprising parabolic trough reflectors which concentrate the sun's rays on to a heat collecting pipe at their optical focus. The solar collector field consists of a large number of these modules, connected both in series and in parallel, using sun sensors and a central microprocessor to track the sun like giant mechanical sunflowers. Oil is pumped through the heat-collecting elements of the entire field by the central computer and the heat is then transferred to the customer's installation by a standard heat exchanger, operating in parallel with the existing conventional steam boilers.

Industrial process heat (IPH) constitutes between 50 and 70 per cent of all the energy consumed by industry in the developed nations. Israel's food-processing, textiles and chemicals factories use 700,000 tons of oil a year to produce this thermal energy; more than a quarter of this amount is required at temperatures below 300 degrees Centigrade, within the LS-1's operating range.

Arnold Goldman, Luz's founder and president, believes there is a potential market in Israel alone for some two-million square metres of parabolic solar collectors, which could displace about 3 per cent of Israel's gross oil consumption, or 20 per cent of all its industrial needs. He further believes that Luz can supply half this market during the next seven years. The inauguration last week of 500 sq.m. at the Tapud plant is just the first step.

The current contract calls for the expansion of the field to 5,000 sq.m.



Arnold Goldman (right) explains the operation of an LS-1 parabolic collector module. (Kuo)

Reaching for the sun

By DAVID FRANK
Jerusalem Post Reporter

of mirrored surface, which will reduce Tapud's oil consumption by some 1,000 tons a year, representing a savings of \$250,000. If the system proves itself, the field could eventually grow to 30,000 sq.m., which would render the factory virtually self-sufficient in energy.

Luz IS GOLDMAN'S brainchild. A rare combination of romantic visionary, creative engineer and hard-headed businessman, he founded the solar energy company on no more than an idea after arriving in Israel from California in 1977.

Not that Luz is his first venture into innovative high-technology: he earlier established the Levitron company in the U.S., which was the first to produce a word processor with a visual display unit. During the two years since its inception, Luz has already shown that it has the capacity to become a major research, manufacturing and marketing concern.

Goldman's reputation as a businessman and his power of persuasion were instrumental in raising \$4m. of private capital. Here in Israel, the Ministry of Industry and Trade agreed to invest \$450,000 and the U.S.-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation provided \$700,000, enabling the company to bring the LS-1 to the manufacturing stage.

Although Luz's design concept is not original, it already appears to have emerged as the unchallenged

leader in the international arena. Engineering consultants Ted Barry and Associates recently found the system to be 20 per cent more efficient than any similar U.S. system. The LS-1 has a peak efficiency output of 64 per cent at 220 degrees centigrade and over 70 per cent at 130 degrees centigrade (the efficiency of most modern electricity generating plants is, by comparison, below 40 per cent).

SEVERAL TECHNOLOGICAL advances have contributed to the LS-1's superior performance. The reflector surface consists of extremely high-reflectance glass, eliminating the need for a high polish on metal surfaces. The mirrored surface was computer-designed to take into account not only the theoretical patterns of the sun's rays, but also distortions caused by minor inaccuracies in manufacturing, double reflections, etc.

The computer not only ensures precise tracking of the sun, but also manages all the other functions of the system. Taking data on oil flow, temperature and pressure, weather conditions and the customer's energy consumption, the computer automatically adjusts the heat output and can, if necessary close down

the system and "store" the reflectors upside-down in the event of a technical fault or sudden storm. The system is, however, very sturdy and designed to operate in gales of up to 57 kilometres an hour.

Compromises and malfunctions are inevitable in applied technology and it remains to be seen just how well the LS-1 actually performs on a commercial scale. The customer, however, cannot lose since he has contracted to purchase energy, not hardware.

Tapud will buy steam from Luz at a constant rate of 10 per cent less than the cost of oil. It undertakes to use steam generated by the solar system rather than its conventional boilers whenever possible — and to do so for 20 years.

THE FUTURE economic viability of the LS-1 depends on three projections: that oil prices will continue to rise at a real rate of at least 3.5 per cent a year; that mass production will reduce costs per square metre from \$850 to \$290 (in fixed prices) by 1985; and that the equipment will achieve its expected life span of 20 years.

Prof. Haim Elata, chief scientist of the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, obviously felt the risk was worth taking when he approved \$712,000 in ministry funds specifically for the Tapud installation.

The ministry's investment represents 80 per cent of the cost of the

first 500 sq.m. at Sha'ar Hanegev; already Elata is seeking ways, together with the Treasury, of helping to expand the collector area. Gabor Textiles has signed an energy purchase contract for 2,500 sq.m. at its Kfar Sava installation, with 20,000 sq.m. following at Gabor's Kiryat Shmona factory if the first stage proves successful.

Luz's chief thrust, however, is in the field of exports, primarily to the massive American market with a potential one hundred times that of Israel. Three major textile mills — J.P. Stevens, Cone Mills Corp. and Bibb — have already signed 20-year contracts involving the installation of a total of 23,000 sq.m. of collectors by the end of 1983. Small "kernel" systems will be in place and operating at the three plants as early as the end of this month.

Luz's SUCCESS is due no less to its sophisticated sales strategy than to its technological achievements. The company sells the equipment, not to the energy consumers, but to investor syndicates which, by taking advantage of energy and investment tax breaks and rapid depreciation, can buy LS-1 systems at a price that virtually guarantees high returns in the medium term. Consumers pay 10 per cent less than for oil and risk no capital investment at all. Luz receives the full value of each equipment sale and the country imports a little less oil. Everyone wins, except OPEC.

In Israel, where there is no significant tax relief for investors in solar energy, "approved enterprise" status (a combination of government grants and cheap loans for exporting companies) will probably be the vehicle for the reduction of the amount of investors' equity.

Just four years have passed since Goldman decided he was going to develop the best concentrating collector system in the world. Today, his firm has already signed contracts worth 50 per cent more than the total value of all Israel's solar energy exports last year. Exports amounting to some \$100m. are projected for the next four years.

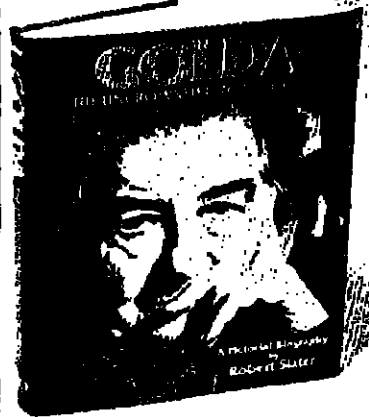
If Luz succeeds in meeting its sales forecasts of one million square metres in the U.S. by 1985, it will have captured just 0.06 per cent of that country's vast \$15 billion market for industrial process heat. Then there is Australia, India, Spain and other countries which have already expressed serious interest in the LS-1.

Goldman's unabashed goal is to make Luz the world's leading supplier of solar energy for industrial use. He is reaching for the sun and the sky is clearly the limit.

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'Peace happening' set for Nueiba

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A "peace happening" with pop-music stars and young people from Israel, Egypt and elsewhere is to be held in Nueiba shortly before the area is to be returned to Egypt on April 25.

This was one of the agreements emerging from the third round of tourism normalization talks between Israel and Egypt which ended Thursday in Jerusalem. The meeting ended with the signing of a memorandum by Tourism Ministry director-general Rafael Farber and Egyptian Undersecretary of Tourism Bahia Adin Nasr.

The happening was recorded in an exchange of letters following the signing of the memorandum. In the memorandum itself the Egyptians agreed to continued use of the airfield at Ras el-Nakeb (Etzion) for charter flights to Eilat, and the two countries decided to implement passenger-ship traffic between Ashdod and Port Said.

A cruise liner is also to ply its way from Eilat to Sharm el-Sheikh, although at present it will not be allowed to anchor at Sharm. Other areas of agreement include an Israel week at the Nile Hilton in March and an Egyptian week at the Tel Aviv Hilton in May.

Tourism Ministry sources report that a proposed direct bus service between the two countries has not got under way because the Israeli operators cannot agree on who is to operate the Israeli service. The Egyptians have already designated a company to operate buses between Cairo and Tel Aviv.

Israeli sources also noted that, although the subject was not included in the memorandum, the Egyptians for the first time have indicated a willingness to allow some



Egyptian Under Secretary for Tourism, Bahia Adin Nasr, and Israel's Tourism Ministry director-general Rafael Farber sign the memorandum of cooperation. (Rahamim Israel)

Israelis to remain in Sinai. An exchange of letters indicated that Israel would lend expertise in the area of deep-sea diving in the Red Sea, and other areas in which Israeli experts may possibly be expected to stay on are to be discussed by secondary committees.

Following the signing, both Nasr and Farber commented on the unprecedented atmosphere of cooperation and goodwill that pervaded the talks. The next round of tourism negotiations is to be held in either Aswan or Hurghada, a resort on the Red Sea.

Attracting more Orthodox Jews

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

"When Jews are in trouble they go to the rebbe; now that there is a crisis in tourism, everyone suddenly remembers that there are thousands of religious Jews who ought to be coming to Israel on a regular basis."

This was the view of Rabbi Binyamin Pery, the affable rabbi of the Jerusalem Plaza Hotel, who is embarking on a new campaign to attract more religious Jews — this time with official blessings. Only a few years ago, he recalled, he had harsh words for the tourism authorities, who seemed interested in bringing everyone except Jews to Israel.

Now, for the first time in years, it seems that there will be no increase in the number of incoming tourists over last year. Pery, a seasoned tourism figure, expects things to get worse in 1983 and 1984, what with the expected increase in hotel rooms. At the same time, he reports, the majority of the ultra-Orthodox in both the U.S. and Europe go for their holidays to such sites as Miami and the Canaries, where there are strict-



An international convention on the bi'ale teshuva (return to Jewish tradition) movement is being planned, along with efforts to boost tourism here by Orthodox Jews living abroad. (Mike Goldberg).

ly kosher hotels ready to receive them.

Nor, he suggests, is this surpris-

ing. Though facilities for the strictly observant are available in Jerusalem, once the tourist tries to go to such spots as the Dead Sea, Tiberias, or even Safed, he finds it more difficult. It is not possible to order *glatt* kosher meals out of Ben-Gurion Airport on El Al or any other scheduled airline, even though such meals are available abroad.

Defining "religious tourism" as visits by those who at least observe *shabbat*, he points out that this includes many visitors who, while not observant at home, expect to participate in religious activities in Israel. For these, he suggests, a wide range of activities including symposia, lectures and musical events, should be organized.

A more specific appeal, to those who have become religious, will be in the form of an international conference of *bi'ale teshuva* (newly religious penitents) during the coming years. Nor does he forget the possibility of organizing tours which will include Egypt, so as to give the visitor a chance to see the scene of Jewish history from earliest time.

Hotel offers tax shelter

By MACABEE DEAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — American citizens who pay 45 per cent or more income tax on their "marginal dollar" can receive considerable tax shelter benefits by buying a flat in the Mandarin Hotel here, according to Robert Daniel of International Time Ownership, Inc.

He said that for persons in this income tax bracket the savings in the Mandarin's time-sharing plan could be some 40 per cent of the total cost of buying such a flat.

However, it is limited to 40 rooms (or 15 flats) out of the 200 rooms being offered for sale in the Mandarin Hotel.

The tax-saving shelter is based on taking advantage of Israel's soaring inflation, and assumes that the rate

of inflation will continue at the rate of about 100 per cent, during the next decade; as well as the fact that the tax on capital gains will be only 20 per cent.

The other time-sharing company in Israel, the Tiberias Club Hotel, has not yet arranged similar tax-shelter advantages.

"After considerable research done by American (the firm of Hirschtritt, Hirschtritt & Gold, of Chicago) and Israeli tax experts," Daniel said.

Each room costs between \$62,000 and \$68,000, depending on the floor, plus a 12 per cent VAT plus a 5 per cent (closing cost) transfer fees, plus legal and stamp fees.

The buyer has the use of the flat for two weeks of the year.

Israel said losing European tourists

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Israel's chances of attracting European tourists are becoming slimmer by the day, according to reports submitted to the Tourism Council in Jerusalem last week.

The council, set up by Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir, to deal with the growing crisis in the industry, heard Tourism Ministry Director General Raphael Farber report that Israel is not trying hard enough to attract European tourists. El Al and the ministry, he said, totally lack coordination in their sales campaigns.

Farber said that a European public relations firm would be employed to coordinate public relations efforts there.

READERS' LETTERS

DISTORTION OF ISRAEL'S IMAGE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, I have witnessed the growing anti-Israeli spirit in our western society, and am frightened by the anti-Zionist propaganda. Was it not the Propaganda Minister of Hitler who talked about repeating a lie until it becomes a truth? The anti-Israel forces have confirmed this.

You are being characterized as the war nation in the Middle East, although it is your neighbours who are threatening you. Even in the peace process between you and Egypt, we got the impression of a peace-loving Egypt and a stubborn Israel. It was not a true picture, but it is the dangerous picture being presented.

The PLO propagandists have succeeded in making us believe that you frightened the inhabitants of Palestine into leaving the country in 1948. We have been told that the Palestinians among you are second-class citizens, that Zionism is identical with racism and that you are a servant of the imperialistic forces in the Middle East.

Once more, our Gentile world is making you the scapegoat of failing human policy. It is a process where white is turned to black, where truth is changed to lie.

I do not think that it is easy for you to stop this process. But you must try. You must tell the world of your struggle to survive. Tell the world about your efforts to create a democratic society and social communion for people coming from all parts of the earth.

We are many Christians who believe the Bible, the promises given you and the historical role you are playing on the world stage. The future belongs to you. It is from above and through you that the heavenly blessings once will flow over the earth.

TOR MARIUS GAUSLAA
Lillesand, Norway.

THE YAMIT SETTLERS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — I refer to your editorial on December 7 "Yamit and the law."

While correctly stating that the two different groups opposing evacuation and resorting to violence — the fanatical and the greedy — must not be allowed to frustrate the national purpose, the article is not free from gratuitous accusations levelled at the government. Thus it maintains that "the necessity of withdrawal... was never explained to the local people."

Now these settlers are no strangers in Israel and it can reasonably be assumed that they have heard of the peace treaty with Egypt, the near-unanimous decision of the Knesset on this account and the sacrifices entailed. Probably the last thing they want is another explanation of the motives for their evacuation. They are either raising extortionate demands for compensation, or else simply refusing to budge for ill-conceived ideological motives (was

Sinai ever a part of Eretz Israel?). The government should not be blamed for procrastination either, but commended for not giving in to exaggerated demands, for which the tax-payer will have to foot the bill.

Not only have many settlers refused to accept fairly generous offers of compensation, but some of them have begun to backtrack on agreements already arrived at. Should these settlers continue to sabotage any solution and cause disturbances, a simple way out could be envisaged, which would lead to the clashes with the IDF they apparently invite: they should not be evacuated by force, but left undisturbed till after the evacuation of the Sinai by the IDF. They would then have to negotiate their future status with the Egyptian army. It is doubtful whether this prospect will look brighter than the conditions offered by our government.

Dr. EZRA MENTCHER
Haifa.

TWO VIEWS ON DESTRUCTION OF HOUSES

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — I was relieved to read Mike Rosenak's letter in your column of December 3. I had begun to think that a few friends and I were the only Jewish Israelis concerned with the destruction of houses belonging to the parents of teenage terrorists.

Mr. Rosenak points to the absence of any questioning by leading officials of Tora Jews; I am appalled by the lack of a strong and continuous reaction by the Israeli population as a whole. I refuse to believe that we as a people approve of such actions, and yet nothing has

happened which allows me to think otherwise. Silence is tantamount to support.

Jerusalem. ADELE PERLOV

Sir, — I note with surprise and shock the bathos poured out over the dynamiting of four houses. I suggest that emphasis be given instead to the fact that an attempt was made to blow up a bus sending the people inside to a fiery death. The fact that those involved were inept in their attempted murder does not mean they should be exonerated and escape free.

Holon. RUTH S. GREENGARD

ARMS TO LATIN AMERICA

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — Mark Marshall's critical remarks (letters to the editor — October 30) about Israel's arm supplies to El Salvador should not go unanswered.

Israel's international isolation has nothing to do with the supply of weapons to either that country or Nicaragua. It has been brought about entirely by an intellectual and political climate that refuses the Jewish people any form of sovereignty in its own land. It has been deepened by the Arab and Moslem world's inherent anti-Semitism, and their willingness to use Marxist anti-Jewish arguments as well as residual Christian anti-Semitism in Europe and Latin America.

J.D. NORMAN
London.

No mention is made by Mr. Marshall of the invaluable aid given so generously by Israel to African and Asian countries. According to my reading of Mr. Marshall, that should have enhanced Israel's standing and legitimacy. But when the chips were down, none of those states had the courage and integrity to withstand the onslaught of the oil producers' blackmail.

Mr. Marshall's all too ready identification of Jews the world over with the consequences of Israel's foreign policy, many of whom may disagree with this or that aspect of it, shows, I suggest, that he himself has been trapped by the dialectics of anti-Semitism.

J.D. NORMAN
London.

BIR ZEIT

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — As a teacher at Bir Zeit University, I resent the assertions of your staff writer Yosef Goell in his article, "Occupation dilemmas" (November 27). He calls Bir Zeit University one of "the sources of intellectual inspiration for terrorism in the territories," and, later on, says that it concentrates on "PLO-inspired confrontation politics" rather than learning.

I do not know where he gets his facts from, but I do know where he gets his rhetoric from: the same book that is used in South Africa, where the higher education of the native population is also suppressed in the name of the suppression of terrorism, and that was used in countries occupied in the Second World War by the "bestial Nazis" (an analogy suggested not by me, but by your staff writer).

Bir Zeit University offers the normal range of courses for a university of its size and expects and gets a high level of commitment on the part of the students to study. Where it is different to the other universities I know is in the amount of harassment its staff and students suffer at the hands of the military authorities.

JAMES CORMICK
Ramallah.

ROAD ACCIDENTS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — Much has been said and a lot more remains to be said on the horrifying problem of road accidents. However, I feel that so far little has been done to identify and denounce what I consider to be the contributory human factor of overriding importance. It is the deeply-rooted attitude — to the point of becoming second nature — of on-shipmanship at the wheel prevailing amongst a relatively small but hard core of imbeciles, young and old alike, who are labouring under the obsession that this is a fitting way to assert their macho. This mania drives them into taking unwarranted risks — and even creating unnecessary risk situations — just to show off their superior driving skills and daring.

GEORGE J. ELY
Herzliya.

THE TEMPLE MOUNT

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — The High Court has for the fourth time refused to uphold the practical right of Jews to pray on the Temple Mount as your paper reported on December 1. In doing so, the Court has extricated itself from what is admittedly a controversial issue, but the question that must be asked is: has justice been done?

The thrust of the ban on Jewish prayer within the confines of the Temple Mount is to default on Jewish civil and national rights. There are areas uncluttered which could be used for that purpose. Recent surveys have impressed Chief Rabbi Goren that there is space there that lies beyond the sacred portions and thus, there is no conflict with the *halacha*.

Jewish links to Judaism's most holy site are weakened by this decision, thereby facilitating the implementation of what might very well be an Islamic Vatican in Jerusalem at a place sanctified to God, 1,700 years before the founding of Islam, by Jews.

YISRAEL MEDAD,
Jerusalem. El Har Hashem Society.

JUDAISM AND THE DEATH PENALTY

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — I wish to express my sorrow at the demonstrations of Kiryat Arba residents who, under Rabbi Levinger's leadership, requested that the judges hand down death sentences for the Hebron murderers and insulted them for not having complied with their demand.

Has Rabbi Levinger forgotten or disregarded the teachings of our Jewish tradition, according to which a court which has pronounced only one death sentence in 70 years is considered bloodthirsty? While I can understand the reaction of the bereaved families and their desire for revenge, what should I think of a spiritual leader who provokes them to follow such a course?

To its credit, the State of Israel has opposed the death sentence since its establishment (except in the Eichmann case). Should it change its stand now, when France has just abandoned the death penalty at the request of its Minister of Justice, the Jewish lawyer



Rabbi Levinger

Budinter? What convinced the French parliament was the firm belief that nobody had the moral right to decide on the death of a neighbour, even a criminal, and evidence that the death sentence had not reduced the number of murderers in any country.

Certainly, the threat of a death sentence has never deterred the fanaticism of any terrorist.

MARCEL GREILSAMMER
Haifa (Paris).

STUDENT UNION

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — I was encouraged to read on November 19 that a large group of faculty members of the Hebrew University were planning to teach Bir Zeit students, whose university was closed by the military government.

However, I was angered (though not surprised) at the reaction of the Hebrew University's Student Union (of which I am a member), threatening to throw out any Bir Zeit students who would appear on the Jerusalem campus, and condemning the teachers' courageous initiative.

The Union spokesman's comment that "we have enough of these

STATEMENT

"elements here already" is a typical response of the right-wing controlled union, whose arrogant acts of violence and intimidation against both Arab and left-wing Jewish students continually threaten free speech and campus peace.

The present ruling faction in the Student Union was elected on June 2 in a vote that was boycotted by a large majority of the student body. Therefore I feel there are grounds to claim that my dissociation from the Union's statement and opposition to the lecturers' plan to teach Bir Zeit students is shared by many other Hebrew University students.

Jerusalem. DANNY SHAPIRO

BRITAIN AND THE ARAB CONNECTION

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — My friend Mark Segal has really misunderstood the position in the Anglo-Jewish community since he believes that the leaders of British Herut have succumbed to the charm of Lord Carrington ("Bitter blast from Britain" — November 11).

There was a meeting last year of the Board of Deputies where our members were present and put the most severe of all questions to the Foreign Secretary. A couple of weeks ago Lord Carrington, addressing the Conservative Friends of Israel, was given a very rough reception mainly accorded by members of British Herut. Indeed, some members of the community thought that the heckling was too robust and certainly the most devastating of all questions came from Brian Gordon the chairman of Young Herut who is the chairman of his local Conservative Association.

We probably take a much stronger line than any other organization to Her Majesty's Government because we take the view that not only is this the most hostile British Government to Israel since the dark days of Ernest Bevin, but also we do not believe that the long-term interests of Britain are



Lord Carrington

being protected by the obsession with the short-term advantages of "the Arab connection." We have campaigned and demonstrated against Lord Carrington and we shall continue to do so, his personal charm notwithstanding.

You will perhaps be interested to know that none of our members are prepared to attend the dinner given by the Board of Deputies in celebration of its 220th anniversary because we feel it is unfitting that the guest of honour should be Mrs. Thatcher, the Prime Minister of this hostile government.

MALVYN A. BENJAMIN,
Joint Chairman,
Herut Movement of Great Britain
London.

AN APPEAL TO POETS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — I should like to appeal to all poets of note writing in English anywhere in the world, on behalf of our magazine, the only English-language poetry magazine in Israel: As the 1982 issue will be our tenth anniversary issue, we wish to make it a special number. Would in-

terested poets therefore please submit to me one "choice" or select poem of no more than quarto-sheet size in seven copies, typewritten, to reach me at my address not later than February 28, 1982.

REUBEN ROSE
Editor-in-Chief "Voices Israel"
Haifa. 38 Nehemia Street